¶ The englysshe of Mancyne apon the foure cardynale vertues.

¶ We haue made this englysshe exposicion for tway profettes specially aboue dyuers other the which can be had by no laten glose the one is for turnynge englysshe into laten: the other for laten into englysshe for in thyse tway poyntis stondith all the bulynes of grammar. Therfore whose wolde haue these tway profetis: let hym laboure diligently theyse tway warkys. But howe they shulde be laboured: and what other profettis shall cum of theym: it is shewyd a litle in the latir ende of this boke.

¶ Dompynyke Mancyne hath made/ or writyn this prologe aboute his boke to the reder therof.

THis litel boke cõteynyth the foure pryncipall vertues with a very pleserfull processe/ and with a very easy fote of metir. b. This lytyll boke is passage worthy/ and mete to rude vnlernyd chyldren/ & to tender yonge damsels/ & euyn to them: whom the mother norellheth yet with beyfome of the mylke. c. Ye is passage worthy also to olde men: whome the boysturs rude olde age hath brought vp ī tyme paste: when ꝑ barbarache tunge was vsed. d. The chaste worshipfull wyfe may teche hyr may dens with oneste this lytyll boke and the husbande may reherse hym to hys wyfe. e. This lytyll boke wyl fle no man: but that he may haue hym: nor woll make no man lothe hym for any hardnes: that is in hym: yf he can eny maner wyse his firste pryncipils: that he shulde begynwithall. f. Make haste therfore ye folke of the vnyuersyte/ & citey of Paris to know e this fresshe new boke for there can nothynge be more vertuouse/ & profytable than hit. g. For he techyth: what shuld be semely to be done through all the seasons of mannys lyfe & he techyth also conuenyently: how hit may be doon. h. And yet he desyrith not greatly: that thou/ ꝑ arte the reder of hym: shuldyst ley out any money for hym but he preyith: that hit may please the to se hym for then he hath Inoughe of his desyre. i. yet yf any body woll by his owna corde by hym selfe one with a lytell money: he may beleue veryly: that he hath no thynge at all at whome more profetable. k. But and he woll bestowe and fastyn surely in his myndfull breste the wordes/ & the sentenses therof: he may cõut hymselfe to haue great trefers withyn hym. l. For there is no marchaũte bryngyth any better thynge fro the co-

stis of Italy nor no stacyoner / or boke seller holdeth / or hath in his warde any better thynge atall: than it is.

Farewell.

¶ Here begynneth ỹ preface / or prologe of Domynyke Mancyne apon his boke of the foure cardynale vertues: made to Fedryke seuerynethe bysshope of the people caulyd maleacenses. m.

Myn age woll not that I shuld make pleyes of the / and sportes: suche as the comyn people be wont to reherse. n. For olde whyte heryd men be not meit to mery nyse knackys or cõceptys nor also it besemyth not an olde man to handle the weppyns of yonge men. o. Howe foule a thynge is it for hym: apon whose whore chynne rise flicis of white here: yf he / mynglyd with childzen: shuld throw nottis with them also hymselfe. p. Howeuyl wolde it agree: if eyther Caton / or Curis / or els ỹ sadde man Fabryse shuld for his sporte wryte tender wantan thynges of loue. q. An horse necke growith noon otherwyse so kyndly to a man: as hit dothe: yf he woll not take apon hym his owne dutye: that he ought to do. r. He takyth not wel apon hym the persone of a daunser: pleyinge his pagent kyndly: that is greuyd with the longe sled / & heuy gyues: that he hath worn a grete wyle. s. How wel may other birdes stryue to mocke the crowe: if he wolde in syngynge make cõparyson ayenst ỹ swan / or elles ayenste ỹ thou nyghtyngale. t. Also the holy order / wherynI am professt: and ỹ vowe / that I haue made to the feyth: and the holy relygion / that I haue take apon me: requyre me to make nothynge in writynge: saue holy thynges: more ouer to set my mynde / and to speke of nothynge / saue of ỹ holy / and catholyke feyth. v. For why doth any body / that is profest to holy tynges / and to heuyn warde:

moue awey his mynde any whyther from holy thynges.

f. A man/ ꝑ is apoynted to warre: castith alwey for harnes/ & weppyns. & lyke wyse a couetyse marchaũt castith busyly in his mynde for goodes: occupyenge his mynde busily about them. g. But a preest specially oughte to byd batell ayenst vycis & to reconcile ꝑ people to god aboue.

h. He ought also to calleagen with his examplis of vertuouse lyuynge/ and voyce of god prechynge theym: that be fallynge in synne and to set theym stedfaste: that be itō dyng i ther degre of goodnes. & he also watchefull ought to expell the rauenynge wolues fro ꝑ foldis and alweys to watch: diligently aboute his flocke.

the Seconde alphabete.ii.

a. There is nothynge fouler: than if a preest be a baudy scolker for elles if he were ꝑ harnes/ & weppyns of a cruwel myndid wariar. b. But yet an other thynge there is no lesse fowle: if he be through his owne condicions the commyn bablynge/ & mockynge stocke of the people or elles if contynuall braulyngis/ wrangling/ stryfis/ chydyngis/ erro si on/ deceytis/ bybbyes/ & reuelynge please hym.

c. But nothynge at all fedrike/ that ye se for fro holy vertuse condicions: delyteth you: when ye rede it. d. Also ye couet to take ẅ your wyse ere nothynge more ioyfull: thā that warke: whom the holy wyt tretith of. e. For your incke gentle nature/ ioynyd with a fauourable planette: if any planettes haue power: geueth so. f. So lykewyse the litterall exercyse/ whome ye haue alway louyd: when ye were yonge: requyreth: that ye shulde/ as ye do: principally reioyse apon heuenly vertue. g. Also lykewyse ꝑ conuersacion of conynge men/ ioynyd to youre syde nyghte/ and dayt: hath mouyd you to the same. h.

And so lykewyse the exãplis of your olde auncetours pro-
uoke you to vertue: the whiche auncetours the seuerynе
housolde/or kynred hath broughtforth vnnumerabil ma
ny. i. And so fourth shortly to cõclude the thynges/that
were nobly doon of them in oldetyme: & the preys is/that
your father hath gote sethyn: be also great sedys to your
vertue: mouynge you to folowe theym. k. But speci-
ally those thynges/whome your fathyr (a capten of war-
re/and a louer of pease) dyd late: cause youre vertue to
quickyn ꝑ more. l. For lyke as the showeris/when they
fall fro ꝑ warme sonne through the lusty ayer in ꝑ spryn
gynge tyme of the yere: geue pryncypally the plantys/ꝑ
be newe set/or grafte: theyr increasementys: euyn so do ye
Fedryke geue them/that youris be: a great norysshement
of vertue: whyle ye youre selfe regarde your fathers ver-
tues: folowynge theym in dede. m. If any body wolde
knowe nowe the late done noble dedys of youre fathir: I
maye well counte my selfe scant abyll to shewe them. n.
For I can not conclude them with a fewe wordys more-
ouer also this is not a conuenyent place to shewe theym.
o. For I make haste to intende to my fyrste courtis: the
whiche firste courtys I haue takyn an honde: that is to
sey: to shewe: why I wryte not of sportis/or iapis. p.
For sothe the reson is this: bicause that fardell is not syt-
tynge for my shulders/nor conuenyent for your holy/ver
tuouse eris. q. Therfore/as moche/as I cowde: I ha-
ue soughtfore sadder thynges/& theym: that may be red
of your mouth more metly. r. For sothe/bycause I desy
ryd gretly: ꝑ ye shuld knowe my mynde: & that I myght
shewe the tokyns of my feythfulnes towarde you: take he-
de: I haue wryten in metir gyftes of ꝑ foure vertues: the
which shuld be semely/& conuenyent for men lyuynge in

this worlde whom also god hymselfe wol preyse/or alow.
l. These gyftis agre meit for you these also be dew to you by tyght: as thynges sprongyn late fro youre owne holy well. t. For/whatsomeuer I haue writen well to ꝑ purpose: you/beynge as an exaumple/and a forme of my writynges: haue done youre selfe hit indede more fully/ & larger: thā I can wryte it. v. These writynges of myne shall be able to stere other men to vertue: but not you for writynges erhorte other men but ye informe my writynges: causynge me to make them better by the remēbraūce of your vertuous dedis: than I coude a done by myne owne witte. x. And yet/though they be not able tobe cōparid to youre dedis: rede these wrytynges of owris for all that: whē rest specially from other busynes is geuyn you: thoughe ye vse bestly gretter thynges vnder your holye breste: settynge youre mynde apon theym. y. The high fleynge egle desyrith not alwey the hyghe ayery cloudis but she flyeth very nygh ꝑ groūde otherwyle. z. Soly kewyse/ whē saddir chargis cesse from your brest/or mynde: geue ye sum what of your season to metirs/ & specially to my versis. the Thirde alphabete.z.iiii.
a. I shalbe glad: if my versis may be rad of so great a mannes mouth: as ye be & also: if they maye be made bettir by your diligent serche. b. Prudens (the mother of all good thynges) cōmyth first of the foure vertuys to be declarid in this litle boke folowynge from whens contynually by & by the holy/hygh/ heuenly ryghtuousnes dra with hir light. c. Aftir warde in the thirde place ꝑ great/ hyghe mynde of manhode is declarid by me & in the ende last of the foure vertuys the mesurable mynde of tēperatnes is describid of my doynge. d. Those foure vertuys haue made a chariet of eyn so many whiles: whome if a

body may getebp into hym: he ſhall be grete of bertue/ & high in worſhyp. e. And he ſpecially/ ꝑ may clyme into that chare of vertu/ royally berynge victory theryn: ſhalbe lokyd apon of all men no leſſe: than if a body ſhuld be a cõ querour thrzoughe all the worlde. f. Fewe kynges/ & dukes haue gouernd this chare for vertue is ſylden wont to be foure maner togethcr all i one man. g. Therfore (be cauſe I haue made this werke for you) cõſither your own ſelfe (callyng your owne dedis to remẽbrauce) i redynge my writynges beholde your ſelfe in them/ as i a glaſſe: while ye be redynge them your ſelfe. h. ye be here all re dy a iuge in this matir: whether my hande hath folowyd wel hit: ꝑ my mynde hath vnderſtode whyle I make haſt to forge out a forme about theſe foure vtues. i. But now let vs ſhewe the order of theſe foure vertues fro theyr be gynnyng for/ when ꝑ begynnynges be knowen: all thyn ges folowynge be the more clere/ and playne.

Here folowyth of the foure wellys of honeſty: ꝑ which haue theyr begynnyng of naturall reſon. k. In ꝑ begyn nyng firſt/ & formoſt almyghty god made heuyn/ & erthe & ſet all ꝑ foure elementys (the fyre/ the ayer/ the watyr/ & the erthe) in theyr owne prope places. l. And after that he garnyſſhid ꝑ ſkye w̃ ſtarris/ & the grounde w̃ graſſe & fillyd the ayer with fetheryd beeſtis/ and ꝑ watirs with fyſſhe. m. And then god/ makynge man lyke hymſelfe: ſubdude euery lyuynge beeſt to hym & gaue hym powar apon erthe. n. He hath made hym alſo partaker of reſõ that he ſhuld therby differ: & deyde hymſelfe from other rude beeſtis. o. Therfore he/ vſynge that gyfte of rea ſon ſo great: hath begonne to ſerche all thynges by his owne mynde. ꝑ. And/ whyle he knyttith by experiens ꝑ

thyngis / ꝑ be ꝓsent: to them: that be past: knowynge: ꝑ the new shall be lyke ꝑ olde: he serchith by his reason i his certen doutles mynde: what thyngis be to come. q. And therfoꝛe he / oꝛdeynynge foꝛ them afoꝛe hande: whatsomeuer is nedfull: hath deseruyd to haue the name of a ꝓudent wyse man. r. And the same reason also of ꝓudens hath ioynyd many men into oon cõpany because of comunycaciõ / ⁊ also of helpe: ꝑ eche shulde succoure other. s. The reson of ryghtoulnes hath dꝛyuen cõpenyse to be cõstraynyd to obey a comaũder: suche as the wysermen haue oꝛdeynyd to rule ⁊ also / after ꝑ the cytyes haue be made: it cõstraynyd men to lyue after ꝑ lawe. t. The lawe of nature hath gẽdꝛyd in ꝑ fathers / ⁊ mothers a specyall loue to theyꝛ owne offꝛynge / ⁊ ayenst other: lyke as ꝑ oꝛder of blode / ⁊ kynred requyꝛith. v. Foꝛ ꝑ which speciall loue the fathers make ꝓuysion with all maner crafte to maynteyn theyꝛ chyldꝛen in bꝛyngynge vp / and settynge them fourthe. foꝛ this reason lykewyse ꝑ chyldꝛen loue reuerently theyꝛ fathers / ⁊ mothers after charytable fauer: as hit requyꝛith. x. This louynge reason ꝓuokyth men to stryue auye with dedys of gentylnes eche to otheꝛ and hit requyꝛyth them to be redy fauoꝛable betwene theꝫselfe eche to other in theyꝛ maters of aduersitie / and trouble.

y. This reason of naturall ryghtoulnes knyttith condicionall couenaũtis betwene the comynalties / ⁊ theyꝛ kynges this reason also ioynith frenchippes beynge yet trewelden when. z. yet they / ꝑ haue thꝛough the gyfte of god moꝛe of reson than other: stryue moꝛe than other in gentyll dedis doynge / ⁊ in geuynge of theyꝛ goodes.

the Fourth alphabete. .iiii.

a. Thil wyse by ꝑ gyfte of rightoulnes acquytynge gẽtylnes the cõpany of men is made stedfast / and increlyd

with strengthe thil wyse also great powars be increasyd.
b. Moze ouer ther is naturally geuyn of this reason a certen desyze to the myndis of men: that they shulde couet alwey to knowe hid thynges: ℔ be harde to vnderstonde: that they myght do theyz deuer to opteyne the trewth / ⁊ pure goodnes: ⁊ that they myght louz it greatlye: aftir ℔ they shuld knowe it. c. Forsothe / because ther is no gretter pleasure to man: than hit: wherby he lernyth / ⁊ so cõtynually is made wyse / ⁊ connynge: therfoze manytymes his mynde boylith so in loue of the trouth: when hit is foũde: that hit woll refuse nothynge of hardnes to suffer hit.
d. Foz a bodyes mynde thil wyse beynge ouercum by no chaũsis of foztune / noz by no laboure / oz sozowe: wyll not flee deth foz the trothe but woll suffer deth rather: thã leue ℔ trothe. e. Let ℔ thyzde vertu be hit: ℔ is callyd an hygh / ⁊ a great mynde the whiche is alwey redy a keper of good harmeles truthe. f. And yet that strength of reson is not to be had / ⁊ countyd small: by the whiche reason hit delytith vs gretly to beholde gay thynges. g. Man only by diligent takynge hede pceyueth / ⁊ vnderstõdith: how honozable an ozder / ⁊ howe gay a goodlynes ther is in wozldly thyngis. h. Therfoze / when a wyse man beholdith this goodly outwarde shap / ⁊ fozme of ℔ wozlde: and louyth / and alowyth hit: then he spekith by hymselfe: seyinge thil wyse. O howmoche gayer a thynge were it: if there were so gay an ozder i our maners of lyuynge? i. Foz that cause he / mouyd by ℔ exaũple of other thyngis: goeth busyly about to refourme after good ozder his maners / ⁊ to put to the mynde inwardly suche a goodlynes: as aperith outwardly i other thynges. k. And therfoze he pzouydith: ℔ he woll do nothynge of vnclenlynes / noz nothynge of folyll henes ⁊ also that he woll haue vtterly

no faute foũde in hym: that he shuld do any thynge eyther ouermoche/ or ouer litle of sadnes/ & that cõuenyens of tyme/ & place shuld be acordynge to his matirs. l. And so fourth thilwyse the vertue callyd moderacion ryslith of ỹ mynde the whiche is to be nombred also to the fourth place in ordre. m. Therfore/ because they be groũdid apon reason: honestye conteyneth these foure partis whom reson hit selfe performyth to the all foure. n. But god (the autor/ & groũde therof) hath brought this reason to man for the comyn people is wont to sey: that nature is god.

o. Therfore because of this double opynyon take thy choyce reder: whether woll plese ỹ: that these shuld be callyd the gyftes of nature/ or ellys of god. p. This woll I performe for my parte: berynge my selfe so: that I may deale dystynctly/ & playne openly with them euery thyng by hit selfe: and also the gyfte of the prudent man shall be fyxte in order.

Here foloweth of prudens ỹ first of the foure vertues. the Fifte alphabete.f.v.

a. The firste place of honesty (that is to sey the chefe parte of wysdam) is to serche diligently: what shuld be trew/ or falce/ & which thynges shuld be good: or what shuld be bad. b. This knowlege of trouth fro falshed/ & of good fro bad is a thynge so apte/ & meit to ỹ nature/ & strength of man: that nothynge shuld be more propre for hym: nor that notynge shuld more beseme hym. c. For euery man is leve/ and set i the desyre of knowlege so that he shuld desyre: that nothynge shuld be vtterly vnknowen to hym.

d. He serchith/ and consyderith in his mynde all thynges diligently for he coũtith it a foule/ and an euyl thyng to erre in a wronge opynyon/ and be deceyuyd. e. For-so the he is a wyse man: wholomeuer serchithout honestye fro dishonestye: that he/ may folowe only the thynges of

honestye. k. Nobody can discerne honeste fro dishonestе saue he: that mesurith / & considerith it also: as his natu rall reason iugith. g. A wyse man shuld not alowe those thynges to be well: ỹ euery man pryseth but them spe cially: that he prouyth hymselfe by his owne iugemẽt. h. But reason berynge rule shuld gouerne this iugement whome the appetyde also shuld obbey: as a cylde obeyith his gouernour / & a companyon his felowe. i. But thou / that arte the reder of this warke: hast all thynges syngu larly: as by theyr kyndes / & syngular partis euery thyng setout by hit selfe wherby thou mayste the more lyghtlye knowe ỹ ryght way. k. First and formast therfore who someuer serchith out honestye: must knowe to be ware of tway thynges in the course of hyuynge. l. One is: that he count not hymselfe cunnynge of those thynges: that he knowith not: and sticke to theym: as to thyngis knowen for certẽty: lyght of beleue hym selfe trustyng to his owne fansy. m. For many thynges lye pryuely hyd ĩ darke de solate placis: whom also no man can lyghtly preyue. n. Therfore be ware: that thou agre not to them malaptly: lest thou repent ỹ of thy dede soon after. o. Here in this mater it is nede of study: here it is nede of diligens / & lon ge season here also parauenture a techer must be callyd fore. p. The experiens of dedis / that be done: shall pro fet also in many thynges. the fauer also to trusty frendship shall profet: when a body trustith to his frendis wordis. q. In doutfull thynges thou shalt serche diligẽtly both the partis: that whatsomeuer thynge cum: it may fall su re to the oute of doute. r. For it is not Inoughe to for tifye / and strength the ton parte this / or that: whether hit be: if the tother be lefte febyll / and wauerynge. s. He pro uyded not well: that sauyd hymselfe only fro the tethe of

the serpent for ꝑ tayle shuld a be prouydyd for lykewyse.
t. Do so: that thou nedyst neuer to sey I had wende
these thynges wolde not a happenyd so for this maner
seyinge is not spokyn out of a mannys mouth withoute
dishonestie. v. Nor let not it deceyue the: that begylyth
certen men the which beleue: that ther is nothynge better
thā themselfe: whyle they (beynge customyd to theyr o-
wne iugement/ and beynge seruātis of theyr owne errours:
obeyinge them) thynke theyr owne dedis / whatsomeuer
they be: to be wel/ and honest. x. They can not be dra-
wyn a wey fro theyr blynde wylfulnes by any reason / or
crafte for theyr owne iugement may do more with them:
than all the reason in ꝑ worlde. y. As the fathers be wont
many tymes to preyse the vycis of theyr sonnys: & count
them to be theyr owne gyftis: & as a grauer: ꝑ hath made
a warke: & as a poet: that hath made a metyr: he (the gra
uer) oftentymes dispreysith the warkemanshyp of that
cōnyng Image maker callyd Phidias: & the tother (that
is to sey the poet) dispreysith Arma/ virū (ꝑ is to sey ꝑ no
ble warke of Virgil: ꝑ begynneth Arma/ virumq; cano)
so lykewyse thyse wylfull folke reuerēce/ & worshyp theyr
owne cōditions & subdue dispreysyng them: ꝑ other men
doo: as though: they were fauty. Sixte alpha.s.vi.
a. For lothe/ bicause they be deceyuyd with the loue of
theyr owne thynges: and can loue vtterly nothynge saue
themselfe: they coūt it precyus stonys/ & golde: whatsom
euer they haue themselfe & they take all / ꝑ longe to other
men: as vyle dirte. b. Reason is hatefully expeld of them/
& all serche of troth they differ very lytel fro cattel/ & rude
beestis. c. Wholomeuer wol not departe with those thyn
ges: that be comyn after nature: woll he geue parte of his
owne goodis. d. But & suche an errour of coueteslnes

happen to stele pryuely apon the: that thou thy selfe wolte geue very litle of thyn owne partis: then thou shuldist take hede: whatsomeuer other bothe holy / and good men kepe: z shuldiste beleue them worthy to be kepte of the also.
e. Many eyes may se playnly i the clere light more: thā one litle sloggysh the dulke ye may perceyue in the darke.
f. But / when all thynges stond determyd to the in a certen cōclusion: howe they shuld be doon: then goto quyckly: let tarynge be farre away fro the. g. For there be many sloggysh the / and slowe in the burthyn of the dede: lothe to take the peyne therof apon them: though they conclude the best of all thynges afore. h. And so they (for all theyr good conclusion) be not yet worthy to be iugid wyse for they leue that parte ondone: that is chefe / and the hed of theyr dutye. i. If the apples cannot be gethred in a conuenyent season: ꝑ grene bowys floresshe i theyr tree none other wyse: than the wyse forecaste of sluggardis doth: bydynge in them without the dede therof. k. And ꝑ hostis of men of warre shewe themselfe crakynge in the mydle of the feldis none other wyse: than ꝑ wyse forecaste of slogardis doth: whithout theyr dede folowynge: if ꝑ cōpany ioynyd together bryngeayen no tryalcese of victory. l. Also the sedis be put to ꝑ erid forowis lykewyse lyynge i them proketles: as the wyse forecaste is in sluggardys: but if a body may repe the harde dryed corne with his sowndyng sikyll: when ꝑ tyme cōmyth. m. For all ꝑ preyse of vertue requyrith the dedis therof for it profetith litle to prouyde well wout the dede folowynge. n. yet he shuld not lacke the euerlastynge preyse of vertue: ꝑ cōcludith with his wit good thyngs: how they shuld be don: though he cānot do thē hymselfe. o. For sikenes letrith many: z also powar suffreth nat many tymes: ꝑ place of pfourmyng ꝑ dede may be had to good reson able coūsels. p. Philosofers

lykewyse/and cunnynge letterde men deserue prayse/ & worshyp: the which in wrytynge well informe after good maner the longe courses of this worlde. q. There is an other vyce: and that is to spende longe season/ & to folow after with ouer moche studis/ & laboure all maner hyghe harde thynges a boue mannys reason. r. For there be certen harde thynges of an hygh subtyll vnderstondynge: the which yet haue nothynge of profet for they profet no thynge to the ende: ꝑ shulde be soughte fore: nor yet to the very maners/ or cõdicions: the which shuld be a meyn to the ende of welth: for all ꝑ they troubyll mennys myndys busyly nyght & daye. s. Or elles also thoughe they couldе do profet to the ryght ende/ & prynceppaule welth: that shuld be soughte fore: yet the seker of theym deseruyth no preyse: for they beynge soughte fore only/ thoughe they be neuer hadde: delyte hym more: than doth the ende: for whom they shuld be sought. t. What profetyth hit to ser che greatly ꝑ variable courses of ꝑ starrys: wherto desyryst vnwyse man to knowe thynges/ & the causes of thynges: that be so farre fro mannys reason: v. Werto couetyst to opteyne in lernynge so many craftis: that they can not be numbered: and to reherse the true stondynges of countreys/ and places thruogh all the worlde: x. Wher to reioysyst to ouercome with knottes of subtyll conclusyons all sophisters: or ellys to holde stylle all the market with wordes: y. yf thou be wyse: no thynge at all of these vanytes longe to the. it his moche more vertuse to lerne hit: that besemyth ꝑ to lerne. z. Thou shouldest lerne to knowe: howe thou shouldest lyue well: and dye well: for thyse tway thynges that is to saye we lyue & dye by oure owne: proprely longynge to vs. &. It is a good/ playne/ vertuous study/ or busynes to lerne so: ꝑ we may be well

cuſtomyd in bothe: howe we may lyue/ & dye well. & hit/ þ may make vs welthy by bothe the rewardys of lyuynge/ & dyenge well: is but an eaſye thynge. a. Therfore thou ſhuldyſt lerne firſte to knowe: what may make the welthfull/ and bleſſyd to heuynwarde: and then faſten it in all thy hole breſte: ſettynge all thy mynde therapon. b. Lerne the wey alſo lykewyſe: wherby thou mayſte cum perfectly therto: the wiche enter apon alſo: after that thou haſte founde hit: and holde it ſtyll contynually. c. For lothe many men lerne perfetly the wey by a longe ſeaſon: and yet they the madde men enter not into theyr iourney. d. What profetyth hit a bodye to lerne that wey: which he wolde not goo: he/ that knowyth good & doth it not hym ſelfe: is made more ſhame worthy: than he: that knowyth it not. e. Shuld a body ſhewe other the wey: and erre wãdrynge about hym ſelfe: and ſhuld he moue/ or ſtere by erhortacion other men aboute it: that he dothe not hym ſelfe: f. Howe folyſſhe a thynge is it to wake all nyght/ and daye ſtyll contynually for noon other cauſe: but that the very laboure it ſelfe ſhulde be the father/ and grounder of no profet: g. For lothe we take apon vs in lernynge the ſeaſon therof voydly profetles: but if owre doynge folowe thoſe thynges: that be receyuyd in oure mynde afore. h. For/ lethyn the doynge ſhuld be the ende of lernynge: deſyre more to do wyſely: than to lerne. i. Therfore (becauſe the dede folowyth not) the man of watre checkyd well apon a ſeaſon the reſonare of wyſdã: whyle he the olde man cryed out ouermoche in the ſcole. k. For the waryar ſayde: O worſhypfull maſter tell me what meen theſe cryenges out/ & wordys of yours: l. ye myngyl braulyngꝫ together fro mornynge tyll nyght there is noon other agrement betwene you: but the toon

seyth:and the tother denyeth. m. The wyse master answerith:seynge O son:we seke the very trewe vertue no man/that euer was:coude seke this ynough. n. Then ꝑ soudiar smylid:seynge Thou arte no we olde: nowe thou arte redy to dye:and is not the very trewe vertu soũde of the yet:when wolt vse hit therfore-when wolt be moude therwith-shalt thou haue the vse/and profet therof: when thou art amonge ꝑ spritis of ꝑ nether worlde. o. Ther fore/bycause the dede is the ende of lernynge: lerne to yelde/and present in doynge:as moche as thou mayste that is to sey:performe:and do in dede: as moche as thou lernyst. p. Hit/that is lernyd:lyeth not hyd but it shewith hitselfe rather oppenly to them:ꝑ seke the dede of lernyng for euery man wyll kechelyghtly with his honde hit: that he hath lernyd:to do i dede after his lernynge. q. Moreouer it is knowyn to be the office of a prudent man to kepe the maner of order:whyle he is doynge suche thyngis: as shuld be don. r. First thou shuldyst prouyde for those thynges:that be sadder of more substans and after warde thou shuldist ordeyn them/ꝑ be lyghtir of lesse substans: in the place/as reson mete for them. s. For it is not conueny ent:that a man shuld take care a bout his chyldren/as seruaunt is:and leue his owne sonnys/and doughters with his derre wyfe deꝑyshid of hym. t. Nor it is not lawfull: that a body shuld despyse his lyfe/as also his helthe: whyle he the couetyse wreche seketh after goodis with ouer moche study/as laboure. v. A body shulde not lese his soule: sethyn he wol make hymselfe sake of his body for his soule is more precious/than his body. x. What thynge shulde a body make so moche of:that he shuld dethe ꝑ losse of his soule for it-settynge more therby / than by his sowle: for what chaffer may be equyualent(equale in valure)to his

soule. y. Who woll chose hym self for the bettir to lyue
one litle moment: seeyng so moche therby that he y must
nedis shuld be content for so lytle pleasure to dye for euer
z. For if a body could call vnto the remembrans of the wonder
and seasons wythout ende: his lyfe can nat to be callyd
but a moment the whiche is so shorte: that it can be callyd
up quyte.

the Englyst alphabete.a.biii.

a. Loke that thou endeuer thy self alwey to yelde hym
more: y thou arte more beholdyn to: but yet put god afore
all thynges: if thou be kynde cõsideryng gentilnes. b.
For it is not acordynge: that thou shuldist seme myndfull
of gëtilnes of euery behalfe: euery thynge to euery man
and yet shuldist be forgetfull agenst cryste thy sauioure.
c. Thou shuldist not only loke after y hopes of this pre-
sent lyfe: but also thou shuldest take hede: what lyfe thou
shalt haue after i a noter worlde. d. For what fallith
more for a man than to cast fore his bus yly in his myndes thyn
ges to cum-lest ought shuld happyn: that shuld ouercharge
hym with the weyghte therof. e. But for so the deth
wol cum: or any pusyion that man can make: an othir
lyfe: the whiche woll oppresse vs with peyne and sorow
or ellys wol geue vs plesyrfull rewardis of euerlastynge
loye. f. And also y lyfe/that shall cum: is not to haue any
markys/or spacis mesurid by tyme: but it shall cõtyne we
forever. and so therfore it wol geue vs euerlastynge thyn
gesgood/or bad. g. But this present lyfe is as a thynge
very lyke a shadowe/and a swyfte wynde: and so hit/ the
which shall perisshe shortly hitselfe: geuith vs those euer-
lastynge thynges good/or badde. h. This is only a pla
ce of forgyuenes: that we be in now: whyle we be fed with
the ayer: lyuynge in this worlde: but the tother lyfe wol

gentlyth thy. c. When thou wolte oughte do about any nede thynge: whether thou haste had no experiens therof or not: thou shalte diligently in thy mynde: how great/ and what maner thynge it is: that may folowe therapō. d. Let no thynge be doon of the sodenly without auysement: go an hastynge apon no thynge hastely: if the thynge hitselfe be dutynge: be lasyer: that is may suffer tarynge. e. Differre and putte for the whyle hit: that thou do atte lest of holde of hangynge for þ verry a lytle whyle hit: that is in honde to be doon: tyll thou be certifyed by leyser: how hit shulde be doon. f. Moreouer/ whatsomeuer thou knowist: hath be begonne wrongefully: thou oughtist to leue it quyckly. g. If there be risen any suspicion to the vnder thy brest: forsothe hit shulde cesse/ and vanysshe away ayen: but yet beware/ and se for all thynge wysely. h. In thy comunycacion thou shalt alwey sythet moue shewynge to other men those thynges: that be good after þ rightous wey: or elles seke for thyn owne lernynge þ right wey of hit: that is wonte to lye hid vnknowen. i. Thou shalt also meke/ and gently shewe that thynge/ that is honest/ and vnknowen to them: that be rude vnlernyd: but thou shalt comaunde theym: whome thy cure gouernyth. k. But and thou confort them: that sorowe for theyr lossis: thy parte of vertue shall not be meyn/ but great i that behalfe. l. Thou shalt preyse but lytle euyn hym: whome thou beleuyst yet shulde be preysed by right: also the contrary wyse thou shuldist lesse dispreyse hym: whom also yet by right thou canst not preyse. m. Whose preysith ouermoche: forsothe he semyth to flater: the tonge of hym is beleuyd to be shrewde: that dampnyth with his dispreyse ouermoche. n. If/ that is true: he shulde be preferred afore a speciall welbeloued frende so that he shuld take hurte rather: than his frende shulde

od any falshed for his sake: let þ kynde/or maner of trothe be vndefylyd/& kepe clene vnthy behalfe: kepe the truthe bothe in worde/and dede. s. Be rehersed/and proue to the vtmoste: what thou mayste do: when thou wolt promes ought: and after that it is promesid: thou shaldist perfourme it fuller/and more largely: than thy promes was. t. Take hede/and call to remembrance: the tymes past: and nowe afore hand the tyme to cum: that thou mayste perfourme wysely hit: þ thou wolt take anhond: the whiche maner of doyng (to make an ende of hit: that is begonne) is a thynge not without preyse worthy. u. Thou shuldiste take hede afore: what profettis/and also what lossis myght folowe: that/whatsomeuer shulde happen therof: thou myghtist bere hit þ more lyghtly/orderly. x. Thou shalt not do alwey bodily warke but let there be some certeyne reste of bodyly labour: and that reste shall be thy myndis parte: wherin it shall be occupyed: whyle thy body restith. y. yet in thy restynge whyle let not thy hande pleye with the dyse: but doo thy deuer to satisfye thy selfe with metis of study: settynge thy mynde apon som vertuse bulines. z. Thou shuldist flye sloggy slepes: when someuer thou restiste: then caste busily in thy mynde som warke of pitefull charite: or ellys goan hande busyly in thy mynde w̄ them: whatsomeuer busynesse is be lefte on done: for the mynde/when the body is at rest: seith more alwey: what shuld be done: than when the body is occupyde. v. The mynde/when the body is at rest: hath a dulle tendeoupynge hym to do sum what: that nede requyrith: and determynyth to hym all dout: settynge hit in a clere case: and makith an harde paynfull thynge softe easy to be suffrede: and makyth also rughe thynges playne/& smothe: the wynge a playne weyghe these comberous thynges may

be done wt leest grefe. f. Hyde ye chefe entent: ꝑ the mynde of a wyse man shulde neuer be solute vnoccupide: though the hande is be occupyed fro bodyly werkis. g. Lette not thy harte be verye greate to knowe what other men offende but take hede rather: what thou faultist thy selfe. h. Loue alwaye to lerne thou shuldist let quetynge go: what he shulde be: of whome thou shuldiste lerne wel let it be ynough to the: if thou mayste opteyne lernynges of whome soeuer it be take hede of thy chaffer: and not of the sillar.

the Tenthe alphabete.i.o.f.

a. Take counceyll/and lernynge of a nother mannys maters: when thou seiste theym done: howe thou shalt do thyn owne for thou mayste knowe greate thynges by lytle thynges. b. The firste age geuyth tokenynge: what euery body shall be in tyme to come and one day (that is to sey the laste) ioyneth the tother deale of the lyfe. c. Let not any autor of a thynge seyd/or done moue the to do ꝑ same: because thou seiste it don of a nothir man but be moued only with the reason of the thynge: that thou goste aboute thyselfe: folowyng thyn owne wit: if thou fynde better reson therin than in other mennys. d. Also let not it please the the more: because paraduenture thou shalt please many but this take hede of rathir: what they be: that thou pleasiste. e. Loke thou seke for hit: that is not denyde by reason: but that thou mayste fynde it and go anhonde busyly to lerne hit only: that thou mayste knowe. f. Thou shuldiste also desire those thynges greatlye: whome thou mayste lawfully knowe openly hit is a shamefull thynge to couet hit: ꝑ a body may not desyre openly. g. Thou shuldiste beware thou desyre not ouer hyghe thynges.

where there shuld be troblynge: when thou stondist there or ellys where thou shuldiste thynke many thynges to be ferid: if thou shuldiste go downe agen fro thens. h. Apply thy strengthis / & all thy labours thyther: to the whiche if thou myghtist cumclerely: there ther shuld be reste purchest for the. i. Therbe certen thynges: the which if thou seke for diligently: thou mayste be preysyd well atordyng to thy deseruynge but when there is Inough sought for: the hande shulde be holde styll. k. When there is good gatte the sufficientlye for the mayntenynge of thy lyfe: this shuldiste thou loke for: for what entente thy lyfe is geuyn the. l. Thou shuldiste not do seruyse lyke a couetyse nyggarde to great plenteth of goodis but thou shuldist take thole goodis alwey as seruātis to ỹ suppor tacion of thy lyfe. m. Whatsomeuer thou woldiste not do: if there were a recorde present: thou shuldiste not doo hit the rather therfore: because thou lackyst a witnes. n.

When fortune woll laughe apon the with a mery countenans: then vse good counsellis the rather / and the more diligently. o. For lykewyse as plantis / & settils can not byde / and rote kyndly in a slydynge place of the hangynge grounde: euyn soo he / that is in welthe / and prosperite: lesith many tymes the mesure of good order: slydynge downe from vertu into tyot. p. Also a shippe apon the see vexid / and betyn of the saulte stormys mourneth no more: than reason (that is to sey than they / that be ruled by reason) shulde mourne in theyr great prosperite / & welthe. q. Therfore / whyle ỹ wyndes brethe w blastis plesefulli: let not out thy saylis at large: whithersomeuer hit pleasith ỹ but go to sure placis. r. Rockes haue laye hid vnder the water in the calme see many tymes: when it

hath be pleserfull to loke apon/ and so by these wythys dy-
uersytymes the shyp hath be hurte. f. Many tymes a tab-
bill the stozme commyth soddenly: whyle the sayles came
full spzedout a lyode in ꝑ calme see. g. No man woll di-
sceyue the: that chzetith harde thynges ayenste ꝑ but he/
the troublefull felowe to hymselfewarde: geueth warnyn
ge rather: how thou shuldist be ware of hym. h. We be
dereyuyd with plesersull wozdis/ and with a feyze mery
countenans whyen we take poysons wꝑ sote sauerys meit:
as folke be wont oftentymes. i. So fozune is wont to
hurte many men: laughynge apon them: ayenste whome
she hath be myghty of power: nothyng troubled of them/
but suffrede to haue hir owne intent. y. Hit hath apered
in this pzocesse afozē: how a man shulde be pzudent/ and
wyse. But now nexte folowynge I woll shewe the gyftes
of rightoulnes: by whome the loue of this wozlde is knyt
together.

Here folowith of rightoulnes.

the Leuenth alphabete. xi.

a. Rightoulnes is a certen holynes of nature send dozy
ne to man from heuyn: from whens ꝑ betty; parte of man
came also ꝑ which rightoulnes woll: that one man shuld
pzofet/ and geue helpe to many other. b. Rightoulnes
knyttith the bondis of loue eche to other betwene men of
this wozlde so: that hit alone shulde pzeserue: oz ellys that
those bandis so knytte shuld pzeserue: mankynde in rest/
and loue eche to other. c. Thou shuldist not enquere:
whether that thynge shuld be pzofetable: that it woll com-
maūde to be done foz/ whatsomeuer rightoulnes woll co-
maunde/ that same thynge shall alwey be pzofetable. d.
The first/ and chefe partis of rightoulnes be to yelde ho-

nourre to Cryste which hath dyed for all thynges/ dost
sary for vs/ and specially thy selfe suffrynge deth for our
sake that parte that is wanting. 2. Therefore/ because
Cryste hath done so moche for vs/ that any man woll be joy-
full apon the principall grounde/ name of eightousnes:
let hym fyrste abouue all other lyue godly/ be a good vertu-
ouse man. c. And let hym so lyue god: that he maye be
worthy to be louyd ayen the contrary wyse after ꝑ maner:
that the fauer of god may be purchest hym for his deser-
uynge. g. He may be acceptable to god: whosomeuer
woll hurte no man/ and coueytch to be ꝑfetable to all men
for so is god hymselfe: hurtyng no man/ and coueting to
be ꝑfetable to all men/ the whiche denyeth no man ꝑ light-
is of the sonne: thoughe he be vtterly nought. h. He ful
fillith not perfetly the dutye of a righteouse man: that pro-
fetith no man: the whiche also vtterly yet hurtith no man
for vertu requyrith the doynge of lum warke: that shulde
be ꝑfyte worthy for hit hath not Inough: beynge cõtent
therwith: that a body shuld abstayne/ & forbere the doyng
of euyll thynges. i. We be not borne ourselfe onlye for
our owne profetis/ but euery man is bounde to geue helpe
and succoure: beynge pleaserfull to other. k. Men be
borne because of men (as Plato berith witnes) that they
shuld helpe ealdy themselfe eche other. l. And also the re
son/ and po war of helpynge is not lyngist/ or one maner
to all men for the cause and maner of helpe is geuyn pro-
pre to euery man after his facultee and powace. m. If
thou can not helpe any body/ that thou woldist: with thy
tyrhelfe/ and goodis: thou mayste on the tother party hel
pe hym at the leest wyse with thy labource/ & counsell. n.
Also moreouer thou mayste/ as a manly man in stoutnes
of corage: let hartefull/ cuelid captifes: that they shulde

not hurte good men/eyther by euyll counsayll/or falle wytnesse.

V. And to encourage the vnfortunate/and moreouer to
monesshynge/or prouocacyon/and ayde in chastynge them:
thou mayste helpe many men no lesse/than in other thyn-
ges afore rehersyd. p. But the degre/and order shulde
be kepte in dures doynge/for all thynges shyne the brigh-
ter by good ordre kepynge. Q. Of clothe thou shuldiste
fierste of all ylde reuerence thy worshippe to god/and after
god secondarily thy countrey callith fierste for his place to
be done fore. r. Thens next folowynge thou shuldiste de
fende/supporte/and mayntegne thy chyldren/and thy de-
ere welbeloyd father/and mother/and afterwarde them:
whome blode/or kynred: and also whome loue/and frend-
shyp hath ioynyd to the. s. And also thou shuldiste not
dispyse them: whom powerte hath ouerleyde: whom sicke
nes hath oppressyd/or eels whome olde age hath subdued
but haue ruthe/pitey/or compassion apon them rather.
t. And specially/if honestye of maners/and good beha
uioure comende/or preyse any amonge those/ that be thus
wyse oppressyd: them thou shuldiste beholde with thyne
eyes of pitey nere/inwardly to thy harte. v. There be
also: that shuld be holpe: the whiche haue holpe the sompt-
me afore season but then/ whē thou acquyrist gentylnes:
set the changis of gentylnes/done on thy behalfe: bryng
encrease to the ayen in loue for thy liberalite. x. Thou
shuldiste/as euydent cōmandith: folowe fruitfull feldis:
doynge: as they do the which bryng ayen to theyr owner
his seedis multiplyde/and increasyd many seedis for one.
y. There is yet one poynt of wrange: that thou mustie be
ware of/ whyle thou woldiste be profitable to one man:
thou shuldiste do it to ye scathe/ hurte of a nother man. z.
Thou shuldiste prouyde lykewyse: whyle thou wylte be

auer gentile to other men: lest thy good shulde fayle the: so thou shuldist be fayne to seke for other menys goodis to mayntayne thy lyfe: when thyn owne be waisted out.

the twelfthe alphabete. xii.

a. For a tyrant many tymes / when his owne substans is waisted out: eyther pluckyth a weye from other men by some maner of wronge: or elys dra with hym selfe a foule shameful note to be knowe eyther a scolynge neheselfe / or elys a poore / wrechid beggar. b. Apply not thy selfe to robbrye / or extorsion: not euyn to be made a great man by a litle therof for it is not lawfull for ꝑ to defyle / or corrupte the right: not euyn to saue thy prosperyte therby. c. Also moreouer not only extorsion / and opyn wronge by stronge hande shulde be farre from a righteous man: but also disceyte / and false surtylte ought to be farre from hym.

d. Disceyte is naturally geuyn to the cubbe / or yonge fore: and extorsion is geuyn kyndlye to the stronge lyon. but eyther of theym is straunge to righteous men: for they be not acqueynted with them. e. But specially of all people in the worlde there is none more mischefull: than he: that is a wolfe inwardly: and semyth a shepe by the skynne / and outwarde apperynge. f. And wronge is not only in the dede: but also it is done many tymes by wordis: as if thou ley false clauses ayenst any man: ꝑ is yet gyltye in some behalfe. g. Speke out playnly alwey hit: that is trewe: and defende it alwey so stoutly: that euery man may se playnly by the: that thou wolt holde with no thynge more / than the trothe. h. And thou shuldist beleue verily: that the trothe can not only be defyled ꝛ take wronge in denyinge hit: but that conscience / and feyth shulde be defyled so lykewyse: as the trothe is by the denyinge therof: though there be none othe made therapon. i. For / though

god be not callyd to witnes hymselfe: yet for all that he is the kepar of trewthe and so he is a witnes alwey redy by his owne accorde. k. And if it be lawfull any tyme to contrary ꝑ trewthe: parauenture it shalbe lawfull to do hit a lytle tyme only: ꝑ the trewe thynges may be shewde ꝑ more opyn therby. l. And parauenture he is worthy to haue his pardon: that shulde speke bitter wordes to the entente: that he myghte kepe his promes about som greate matte. m. Feyth/ and promes shulde be kepte on thy behalfe too: that thou shuldiste desyre: that stedfastnes/ and the feythfull couenaundis/ that thou haste made: shulde be kepte alwey accordynge to thy promesses. n. yet I graunt: there may many tymes by possibilite a season/ or a chaunce happen: that hit shulde not be bretherye vnlawed to defyle/ & breke eupn a feythfull promes as by cause I shulde promes the hit: that cowde not be done profetably or elles by cause the doynge therof shulde hurte more: than hit cowde profet thy dedis: that thou woldest haue done. o. Teseus (the husbande of Phedra) shulde a desyred: ꝑ his grauntsire Neptune (god of the see) wolde a denyed the couenaundis of his promes: when he drewe Ipolitus the wretche in his owne chare throughe the fals hed of his stepdame Phedra. p. A righteouse man shulde not bitter thoose secretis: that had be shewyd hym in counseyll but he shulde kepe in: whatsomeuer is not lawfull for hym to bitter by mouthe. q. Thou shuldiste not throwe about fedes of strykte/ or slaunder with wordis doutfull: that may be take dyuerse weyis but thou shuldiste rather bringe oute of thy mouthe a certeyne iugement/ or determynacion: puttynge hit/ that thou spekyste of: in a clere case. r. Orellys thou shuldiste rather holde thy peas: especially when there shulde be no cause for the to speke

for a chatteryng tonge manytymes hurtith hym selfe/and other me also. c. If a power of any office publyke about the comyn welth be cõmytted or leyde to ỹ at any season: or elles if the company of thy howsholde be of a greate nõbre: correcte hym: whome the dede/that is to sey whome the faute yeldith gylty/for it is no preyse: ỹ thou shuldist be cõtrid ouer softe/and fauorable. c. For he/that shuld forgeue one: causith many to faute/and so he hurtith many: whyle he pfeith not so moche as euyn one. d. What someuer many faute thorughe the: geuynge theym fauer: thou arte gylty the selfe by rygght of the faute of them all.

e. But he fauoureth: and his fauer hurtith specially: if any hed officer/that hath rule of punysshement: ponysshe not fautis acordyng. the ouer moche fauer of a iuge is his gentyll rodde of ponysshemẽt. f. He specially/by whom the righteouse ponysshemẽt hath be withdrawe from euyll men: ouerthrowith pryuely compenyle of men: and vnder mynyth cities: bryngynge them in trouble/& wrechidnes: ere they be ware. g. He/ỹ this wyse fauerith euyll men: bryngith good men in trouble: as he doth: that throwith moche flamynge fyre among howsis: or elles mouith the lockis to the gates: when the enmyes oppresse the citey: leyinge lege ayenst hit.

a. He therfore/that this wyse fauerith: is not worthy to be called a gentyl fauerable citezyn/or prynce but he may be called rather a bryngare of poyson/or myschefe. b. yet in ponysshementis doynge it is not lawfull to excede mesure: though they shuld be sharply don. it is a gay thyng for to do: that there shuld be mesure kepte in all thynges.

c. Thou shuldist not be cruell/and sharpe or egre: whe thou takyst ponysshemẽt apon any man: as thorughe thou

shuldiste seme gladde of a nother mannys hurte: but pon
nysshe ayenst thy wylle: as thoughe thou shuldist be draw
wyn to that bulynes maugre thy hed: and be sorye: that p
trespaser shulde a done so great offencis to suffer such pa
nysshemét. d. Also more ouer if one maner cause/ or ma
ter p̄sent dyuerse trespasers in the same: thou shuldiste
not let the toon go at large: and be wyllynge to kepe till
the tother. e. Thou shuldiste not ponysshe the these on the
toparty: whyle thou woldiste rewarde them with a gyfte
on the tother partye: whom the very dede reprouyth after
one maner both the partyes. f. One maner cursydnes
shuld suffer one maner ponysshement: equaly deuydid a-
cordynge to the trespas: for thou shuldist not be a meynte-
nar of the toon partye/ and an enmye of the tother: bothe
fautynge lyke moche in one maner thynge. g. For so is
the spyder reportid to deale with hir webbis: the which
webbis/ that is to seye thredes: she knyttith together dili-
gently: ordeyned to make webbis only for lytle smale bestis:
as flyes to take them withall. h. But & there come a hor
net of a grettere weyght: than they may abere: he alto dest
troithe/ and tereth all to peacis those lighte/ slender webbis.
i. But those hangynge nettis wrappyn among them the
lytle smale flyes whose lyfe perill lith in a wrecchyd hul-
synge. k. So is ȳ pore man also wont to be ponysshyd
by a sadde cruell lawe but & the ryche man faute: he gothe
his wey quyte sould fro the lawe. l. If any man haue of
fendyd the in thyn owne behalfe: let not the ponysshement
be more than the trespasse for it is ynoughe to be equale
therwith. m. But yet/ & thou mayste synde in thy harte
to forgeue: & that no bengynge shall please the: then thou
arte moche rightwysure/ and thanke worthy to god. n.
Thou shalt also kepe righte/ and mesure agenst thy lerus

fis thou shuldist lye to them but rightoule thynges and lykewyse thou shuldist not dely3e of theym ageyne but rightoule thynges. d. Thou shuldist beleue/ and remembre how nature hath made theym brethern to vs: that thou nygthist counte/ and knowe the more largely/ and playnlye therby: that it shulde be vnlawfull to raue/ and deale cruelly with theym. p. Thynke theym alwey fro the: if they faute greuously agenste the/ if they faute but lytle/ and specially ignorantly: haue pitey/ or mercy apon them: for who can be wyse ynoughe alwey: that he shuld neuer faute. q. Now we/ after that we haue openyd/ and shewyd the very trew endis of rightoulnes to ye vtmost: what a rightoule man shulde do: lette vs speke of a manlye/ & a stoute hyghe mynded man: what he ought to doo.

Here folowyth of stoutnes/ and greathyghnes of mynde: the whiche is in order the thyrde principall vertue.

r. I count hym manly of an hyghe mynde: that takyth apon hym wylfully harde/ greuous thynges: that he may therby defende/ and meynteyne his honestye: the whiche also ferith nat sore/ cruell thynges. s. He ferith not men of this worlde: also he dredith not euyn ye perellis of dethe: he is redy to soffer: whatsomeuer can happyn. t. Tormentis of bodily peyne/ and thretynges can not moue with fere an high manly mynde: but his holy vertuse reason only hitselfe may meue hym to many marueloous thynges. v. yet a manly man wol not gretly dely3e perelis wout a cause: though he wolde flee to bere ye name of a fereful man. x. There is nothynge of all thyngis more folisshe: than a man to put hymselfe wylfully to perelis: when he may do that

same thynge as well in surstye. y. He is ouer mad: if any man wolde desyre to haue the bompynge roughe/stormye waues of the see: when he is there in a calme water. z. Whose makith a saute agenste is countrey: and whose corruptith the comyn ryghtes therof: he shall not be worthy to be countyd a man of a stout/high mynde but he is worthy rather to be callyd malapert/folehardy/wykyd/madye and whatsomeuer the tunge can reherse of cuyll: he is worthy to bere the name therof.

the Fouretenyth alphabete.14.xiiii.

a. Also he shall not be callyd a manly man: thoughe he put hymselfe to neuer so great labours/and perellys: that seke̅th but his owne profettys therwith but he shall be callyd manly: that forbiddith/and lettith the extorsion of his countrey to be doon of other: and also wolde do none his selfe. b. Ther is no preyse of mynde: nor no noblenes of dede there: fro whens rightousnes/and the comyn welth of the countrey is farre awey. c. Also there is no man can bere ꝑ name of a stout stomakyd/and a manlye man: saue a good/playne fourthrighte man: a frendlye man of good/playne fourthrighte delynge. d. Let the preyse of thy dedes delyte the let thy good dedis be pleserfull to the by themselfe for theyr owne sake. e. A stout myndid man puttith his honestye in noble dedis and he regardith lytle the voycis of the people. f. He is no man of a ryall/high mynde: that hangyth fro the mouthe of the people harkenynge for theyr preyse but he is the man: that coude do that thynge in dede hymselfe: that he desyreth to hymselfe: seke̅yng none othir preyse/but his owne dedis. g. Whose puttith ouermoche to his titles: and seketh busily for them to magnyfye hymselfe: he is a man ouermoche vayngloryous/and chyldlyke. h. Hit falluth for a noble highe sto-

makyd man ficke/ & pryncipally to dispyse all outwarde thynges: longynge to the worlde: the which worldly thynges the rude vnlernyd people loue ouermoche: settynge theyr mynde apon them. i. A stout hyghe myndid man desirith hygh thyngis: despisyng lowe thyngis. for/ what someuer the erthe hath: he countith hit lesse worthe/ than hymselfe: he countith not that thynge high: whatsomeuer the eye seith: or ꝑ hande touchith: but those thinges he cõ tith high/ and noble: that he takyth with his mynde. k. There is no man (as I suppose) gretter in noblenes thã he: ꝑ despyseth erthely thynges: touchynge with his mynde heuenly thynges. l. But nowe ayen on the tother parte. Who is a great man worthy to be set by: whatsomeuer he be: that is busily nosilde in these lowe dirty thynges of the worlde. and not so moch as onys liftith vp his hed fro the erthe towarde noble high thynges. m. Nowe ayen to the firste parte. Who canne denye: but hit fallith for a great man of powar e to deserue to holde wt the hyghe kynge of heuyn a place worthy for hym to haue for his vertue. n. Therfore he shall not be callyd great/ but very/ excedynge great: that hathe deseruyd to be of the halle of the hyghe god of heuyn. o. Who can denye: but he is a manly man: that takythe great citeys by myghtye strengthe/ and longe sege leyinge to theym. p. Therfore he shall not be callyd manly/ but very/ excedyng manly: that woll rest hym as a conqueroure in the hyghe towre of heuyn: when hit is take/ and gotte of hym. q. Labours/ or peynys/ whatsomeuer they be: fere not a great man of stomake so: that he shuld lowsaway/ and withdrawe hymselfe at ꝑ laste fro that warke: the whiche warke he hath begon well. r. Lyke wyse let it not wyrge the to stryke at the palyce of heuyn with myghty/ stronge/ vertuous dedis so

manly: that the porter hymselfe may vnlocke the gates lightly for the. s. The noble hyghe porter of heuyn de nyth no man passage: ꝑ knockith at his warde also no man axith hym ought: that he woll not geue hym so that he delire rightouse thynges. t. Wherfore goo thou shuldist neuer slake thyn armys: though they be wery: sethyn the reward is knowyn for surety tary for the to be geuyn the anone by and by. v. Thou shalte haue the reward of victory at ꝑ ende of thy iurney therfore goon to ꝑ ende therof: as a shippe of the see doth for ꝑ garlonde is geuyn hir acordynge to hir deseruynge: after that the see hath be ranne throughe of hir. x. Also thou shuldist thynke verily: that ꝑ ende of thy iourney in this worlde is not prolongyd very farre fro the for hit is very nyghe manytymes: when a body wenyth leest. y. A noble hyghe myndyd man doth no scruple to sensualyte: obbeyinge his carnall appetyde but he is fre at liberte frome all vice/ and alwey stylle a companyon of the rightwey. z. And specially he sufferith not: that vnkyndly riot/ and the foule lust of ꝑ body shuld ouercome hym but he ouercũmyth his sensuall bodyly appetydis: beynge strõger hymselfe: than they be.

the Fiftenyth alphabete.xv.rb.

a. There is no gretter/ nor fouler bõdage: than it: wher by the mynde is the fast boũde vndervicis. b. The trew liberte of the mynde is hit: whom no carnalle appetyde cõ straynyth by powar: nor oppressith by bondage. c. Yet that stondith at this trew liberte: preysith nothynge: saue hit: that shuld seme honeste nor nothynge: saue hit: that by dith alwey/ and that still contynually after one maner. d. He/ that is stedfaste alweye one maner: can not shrynke for aduersiteis/ and troubles: but berith theym out with a stout stomake: as thoughe his mater were alwey safe. e.

But he/that very/excedyng grete man of stomake/that beleuyth: he hath all his good thynges in his mynde/and not in his bodye: shall fele nothynge of bodily aduersite. f. He indede alone aboue other conteynyth all thynges in his mynde: in whose brest Cryste sittith seruyde faste alwey nyght/and day. g. He/whome fadnes dressith/and hightith: kepith his countenans alwey one maner: and he trymblith not: and soundith with wordis dronynge: as he were halfe deed but he spekith out his wordis playnlye/& demurely with a sobre mynde. h. It is not the propurte of a great/highe stomakyd man to haue gloutynge eyes/ and thretynge lokes: but to haue rather ꝑ beuty of a meke countenans. i. For a manly man is not puyd by his braggynge cõtenans/and loke but let a stout manly man be prouyd by his dede/and stomake after my iugement. k. The comyn wel: hy shulde not be medlyd with of the ꝑ lesse therfore: bycause thou shuldiste be a ferde to suffer disapoyntmentis of the peple: that they wolde not suffer the to bere rule. l. Thou shuldiste not leue thy countrey: bycause there shulde be batell agenste the: if thou woldiste defende it: for thou canste not be knowen manly thyselfe other wyse better/than by puttynge thyselfe to perell for the defens of thy countrey. m. Moreouer he/whome the cursid hunger/and shape of money shulde take/and stryke to the harte with desire therof: is no stout stomakyd man: but rather a shepisshe/henhartyd wretche. n. Though the myschiffull money of this worlde torment/& vere sore cursid men wt sorowe in lekynge for hit/& troublefull fere in keppyng therof: yet it can not be greuouse to noble hygh myndyd men: for they woll not sette by hit. o. There is nothynge lesse worth: nor nothyng is strayter pynchid/&

wrongyn to gether than that mynde: that doth seruyce to money: apon whome therfore his goodis haue domyna-cion. p. ¶ He forsothe is a stout stomakyd man: whatsom-euer he be: that can despyse richessis: the pore man i coue-tynge them not in his mynde: or ellys/ if the rycheman ha ue theym: he is lyke wyse stoute stomakyd: that departith theym to his frendis so: that he shulde reioyce to be to the helpe/ and socoure of many other men. q. ¶ O howe mo-che is the sentence of ¶yrrus poblysshid amonge manlye men: ꝑ he gaue: when the citey of rome (woũdid / & put to rebuke of hym) redemyd hir pryseners. r. For ¶yrrus seyde to hym/ that wolde a nombred the raunsome: these wordis. ¶ I call for no golde: thou shalte geue me no gyftis let vs stryue with ¶ron/ and not with golde. hit besemyth tauernars to medle with golde: and hit is acordynge for vs/ that be men: to deale with harnes/ and weppyns. s. ¶ This is a seying in dede conuenyent for a kynge he (that noble man ¶yrrus) shewith with his wyghty strengthe/ and manly mynde the grat noble stocke of theym: ꝑ were callyd eacide: of whom he was one hymselfe: that came of Eacus. t. Also thou thyselfe Curius were no lesse of mynde/ and stoutnes of stomake then: when ꝑ people cal-lyd sammites wold a geue the goldyn gyftes for theyr raũ some: the which thou woldist not receyue: and yet thou de-lyuerdiste them theyr pryseners neuer ꝑ latir: as ¶yrrus did. v. As thou were ¶ dell apon a season: thou drydist rapis ayenste a lytle pretty fyze: when a certeyn sammyte a messynger (of them: that were callyd sammytes) leyedout his goldyn gyftes a fore the to delyuer theym to the. x. ¶ Then thou seydist to hym these wordes ¶ hadde leuer for sothe ete in a potters disshe made of erthe/ than in yolowe disshes of gold: therfore cari ayen with the those gyftis: ꝑ

defende me. y. We woll noo golde but we woll rather be aboue theym: that haue golde and ꝑ couet we mete. z. Perelis of certen thynges shulde be take an hande also with the body for there be some harde thynges / and some labour theris shreuder: than can esily be done.

the Sirtenyth alphabete. xvi.

a. yet / though he they be nedefull: they shulde not be takyn an hande folehardily but rather after a better wey there shulde consideracion be hade afore: what thynge reason agreith to be done: or ellys what thynge hit denyith to be done. b. For reson / that is to sey a man / that is ruled by reason: woll take an hande no thyng is gretter / than hym selfe / that is to sey than his strengthe / and powar is able to pforme: so that he shuld leue of shamefully any warke / after that hit is onys begonne: ere hit come to an ende. c. He / that is ouer sure of hymselfe: takyth apon hym many tymes great busynesse is the which when he can not yet make an ende of: he bryngeth agen hymselfe shame there by. d. But yet a man must be ware: that he shulde not seme wyllynge to seke his flight trymlyng lyke a cowarde: whyle he pupdich for all thyng afore hãde ouermoche: wout ꝑ dede folow. e. For it is better for a man to dye lyke a man: thã to lyue a foule shamefull lyfe like a cowarde vnder the daũger of his enmy for deth ought to be pferd / & takyn of very men a fore bondage vnder theyr enmyes powar. f. Thou shuldist not stryue with weppyns: saue when it is nede to stryue wt them for it is ouer beestlyke / & cruell to myngell together handis: fightynge one with an other. g. Thou shuldist neuer take batell an hande saue for loue of peace but that peace / that thou sekest fore: shuld haue nothynge of dereyt nor gyle. h. There is nothynge more conuenyent in a great noble man: than

to fauer them: that be ouercum wherfyn he agreith to the nature of god. i. Hit is not a thynge of so grete prayse to ouercome proude men by strengthe: as it is for a man to shewe hymselfe fauorable/and pleserfull to his subiectis. k. Amonge all the vertuys of ꝑ noble conquerar Cesar it is reportid to be chefe/& prynspall: ꝑ he was alwey plesserfull to the citesyns: that were conquerde of hym. l. Nature hath made ꝑ strong hartyd lyon meke/and gentill to them: ꝑ be fa'downe flat afore hym: as to childzen/ and smale bestis. m. Thou shouldist not fight e agenste thyn enmy: but if he be warnyd sumwhat afore for false wylynes itselfe shewith they mynds to be ferefull: ꝑ vse hic. n. Thou shuldiste folowe no man with hatryd/ nor with poysonfull malyce: beryng them in thy harte agenst hym for this vyce is wonte to be in narow/lowe/wretchid myndis. o. If any body offende the w wykyd wordis/ or dedis: doyng ꝑ some displeser: cout by thy selfe in thyn owne cõceyt: ꝑ he hath nothynge hurt the but thou mayst sey: ꝑ he only had a mynde to hurte the and ꝑ his mynde had not his desire. p. For there is no man hurtid for a surety in his owne conceyt: but if he hurte hymselfe for none other man can touche his mynde. q. And/when there is powar of vengynge thy quarell made/and geuyn the: let it be Inoughe for vengynge: that thou haste powar ther to for it is a mannys ꝓpurte to be moste mercifull in his moste powar. r. For lothe there is no vẽgyng dra with so gretter honoure: than hit: that is despisid of the/ & lefte undone. s. Thou shalt sclaunder no man thyselfe with a pryuey muttrynge be hynde his backe but/& thou reproue any man: thou shuldiste goo apon hym openly. t. A mynde knowynge itselfe of the trewe wey: that is to sey a mynde pure from vicis/and playne/forthright in trewe

delyng without wrenchis/and wyles:and the feyth kepte clene with truthe/and conscience neuer broky n:shall onlye make a man highe hartid/and bolde in all worldly thynges:knowyng hymselfe in so good a state to heuynward.
b. But nowe agen on the tother parte Foule vicis/and synfull dedis of/puynge shall make a body ferefull in all parellis/for he dredith all thynges:whome his owne lyfe oppressith with ꝑ fere of his owne dedis. c. An hart clene without any grodge of conscience neuer sheuerth with heuy/sorofull fere/for what shuld he drede: whosomeuer be without faute/ shulde he drede dethe/whome nature hath ordende hym as a gyfte/by whome therfore he doutles enterth ꝑ blessid/and ioyfull kyngdome of heuyn/ orellis tormentynge/of whome he felith not ꝑ peyne:whyle Cryst is redy alwey helyng his woũdis/ d. What thynge shuld he drede:whome Cryste louyth/whome the virgyn Crystis mother defendith/whom also all the halouse of heuyn fauer louyngly/
the Seuentenyth alphabete.17.xvii.
a. Who cowde in olde tyme bryngе any fere to martirs/ who cowde ouercome so grete/hige hartid men:as they were/ b. Kyngis ouercame not them:nor tyrandis neyther ꝑ peple had no powar to ouercome them/nor wylde bestis neyther:that were let to them. c. ponge folke/ children/oldefolke/ and wemen frayle(weke of nature)had no fere:when they were afore the presidensis:that had no were of execucion. d. None artulery of shet/none instrumẽtis/and fire/setout/and ordende for deth: nor handis/ cruwel wt dartis/ & strokis:droue them into a foule shamefull flight fro theyr heuenly purpose. e. No prisonement/

¶ Here lackith a hole fyde of a lefe:the whiche ye shall fynde in the later ende of this boke/in the correccion therof.

all men to opteyne this deth of ꝑ swirde: that couet it for
thes wirde of martyrdome is an highe / speciall grace of
god. e. Certenly he is nerre to god: whom Cryste shuld
whitsafe to dye by a lyke deth: as he dyed hymselfe. p.
Now thou haste be beside Inoughe Talia godes of me-
ter about great / high / noble myndes now make haste ho
ly goddes to reherse ꝑ tother dele with thy fote of meter.

Here folouth of temperans the fourth vertue in order /
and the last. q. We haue sheude of myndes: howe they
shuld be so strong: that they coude not be ouercome now
wolh: the place / and seson / and my purpose requyre to spe
ke of sadde / stedfaste myndis: keppynge trew order / & me-
sure in all thynges. r. Whose subduyth the outrage mo-
uynges of his mynde: and kepith good behaueoure i his
wordis / and dedis: he shall be a moderate man: keppynge
the trew mesure betwene to moche / and to lytle. s. Ther
fore / that thou mayste be suchon: thou shuldiste diligently
consither by thy selfe thy desiris: whether they be reso-
ble / or vnresonable & then folow apon them: ꝑ be good &
let other go. t. Those thynges be good: that good / play
ne / forthright reson requyrith not they: whome proud dis
deyne at other men / & coueteisnes of honoure to hymselfe
wyllyth a man to do. v. He nedith nat many thynges:
that can possesse hymselfe: rulynge his owne carnal appe
tyd after reson: whose can possesse hymselfe: subduynge
his sensuall apetid / & folowynge reason: he countith hym
selfe to be ynoughe for hym. x. Also he / that can possesse
hymselfe: is riche alwey plenteth full of all maner goodes
at ꝑ lest wyse he can not be countyd to be without richesis.
y. For euery man may make hymselfe welth full (full of
prosperite / and euerlastynge ioye) by hymselfe without

helpe of any other thynge so ꝑ he can possesse/ & rule well
all that he hath within hymselfe. s. He shall be alwey a
werre/ and alwey nedy: to whome his owne thynges/ ꝑ
he hath within hymselfe: be not ynoughe to content hym:
but ꝑ he sekyth besily for some other thynge: that is with-
out his body.

the Eyghtenyth alphabete.is.xviii.

a. For thoughe a ryche man haue prospre to hymselfe ma
ny thynges out of nombre: yet he couetith alwey to haue
many moo. b. For lothe he possessith hymselfe hoole
all partis of his body (or ellis I am begylid) that is of a
hole perfet mynde: and that vnderstondith / & prouydith
thynges: ꝑ shuld be vnderstode/ & prouyded lyke as he is
perceyuyd to be cõplete / and hole of body: that berith all
his lymmys hole: none of theym lackynge / nor broysid:
while he is myghty/ and stronge in his lusty age. c. Con
trary now on the tothir party he is not countyd complete
of all his lymmys: ꝑ is lackynge an eye nor he: if ther lac-
ke to any body the nose/ or a fote/ or ellis an hãde lykewy-
se also/ if the eyes of the mynde be duske to any body: he is
not cõplete hole within hymselfe inwardly: but besid hym
selfe rather: when he is drounde in errours and wronge
oppynyons for lacke of knowlege/ and cunnynge. d.
Therfore haue thy selfe firste in possession/ about thy myn
de: and seke not besily aboute thynges: that be awey fro
the: while the nerre parte/ and hit/ that is thyn owne shuld
be fro the: as a wyse man woll behaue hymselfe aboute
his body: for he firste of all puttith awey deselis frõ his bo
dy: if he haue any: & then he is alwey besily welaware of
all noysum thynges: ꝑ they hurt hym not. e. For who ta
kyth/ & drynkith poyson wylfully for the nonys: who wol
dese hymselfe hedlynge wylfully into a diche. f. More

ouer if any body happyn to drynke by chaunce/or ellis by
any disceyte þ colde poysonfull erbe callyd cicuta/ or ellis
rather þ ioyse of it: anon forthwith he goeth to fisicions for
a remedy. g. If any body haue his legge brokyn: a non
by & by he hirith hym a bonne setter/ a leche/ or a surgyn.
also moreouer ther is sum medson ppre for them: þ haue
blerid eyes: the which medsyn they seke fore likewyse. h.
I woll shewe of a thynge: the which is more to be marueld
at/ if thyn asse/ or any other helpyng beest of thyn go lym=
pynge: anon fourthwithal thou thyselfe callist for a smyth
with thyn owne mouth: sekynge hym thyselfe: tarying for
none other messynger. i. If any desese hath greuyd thy
vnderstandyng/ & mynde: why getist not remedy: & resto
rist not them to þ agen also: as thou doste about other our
warde thynges. k. For sothe þ carke/ & cure of thy myn
de shuld be had of the so moche more/ than of the body: as
the mynde exceditht þ body by hir noblenes. l. What de=
litith/ or proffetith it the to dronde besy/ contynually hyt in
so grete labours/ and troubles: þ she must alwey rolle hir
selfe a bout for owe & trouble: doutfull to hir þ wretchyd myn
de: what shuld be don theryn. m. Why makist hir wery
alwey bothe nyght/ & daye in þ whot flamys of thy foule/
wretchyd desire: and lesist þ betyr/ & hit: þ thou holdist/ &
haste in thyn owne warde nere þ/ than any other thynge.
for thy mynde/ or sou'e is within the. n. Thou arte ouer
wykyd/ ouer cruell/ & eger apon mysscheffe: þ thou thyselfe
leyist thyn owne handis agenst thy selfe. o. Wherto stry
uyst/ wrangynge w thy selfe: to wrappe hir (the wretchid
mynde) in so many grete nettis of sorowe/ and trouble: fro
whens forsothe thou canste not wrappe hir: when thou
wold ist. p. Alas it (the wretchid mynde) is shakyn with
carkys & tost fro post to pyller: when thou art makynge &
she is troblyd lykewyse w dremys: when thou art restyng

with thy body aslepe: & so she rennyth wode / as though
she were dryuyn wt prickynges neuer restyng. q. Thou
folowist apon hir with veracion as a cruell tormentour:
and as the cruell godes of bacell callyd bellona is wonte
to persecute hir enmyes with a scourge: so (thy pore wre-
chid mynde) flieth. r. Shuld it not be lesse hurte for the
to lese thy right hãde fro thy body: then ꝑ parte: by whose
strength thou beriste thy wysdam: and ꝑ is thy right myn
de: & also thu to lese ꝑ parte: the which parte was dely-
uerde ꝑ frõ heuen aboue: & that is thy soule: wout ꝑ which
parte also / if thou hadiste it not: thou shuldist be nũberde
with other wylde / rude beestis. s. O howe disceptfull is
thyn hope to the: while thou arte alyue: & also when thou
arte dede: if thy leder of life / and deth (thy right mynde I
meyn: ꝑ shuld lede the to heuyn) be like a wey fro the! t.
Ther fore firste of all the desesis shulde be dryuyn fro thy
mynde: ꝑ thou myghtist be hole to thyselfe / all cõdicions:
and ꝑ nothynge shu'd lacke fro the. v. Rule it (I meyn
thy mynde) through holsom / & streyght / playne pathis:
that she holl in strength may yelde the hir dutye. x. But
now very dere / & welbe'ouyd reder / because I wolde not
tary the longe: take this for a conclusion. Counte it to be
the duty of a hole / sounde mynde: ꝑ it shuld hope / & truste
only apon ꝑ thyng: ꝑ shuld profet alwey in euery seson: &
apon it: ꝑ shuld be out of mesure eredyng good / ye & also
durynge for euer withoute any ende. y. Anothir is: ꝑ a
hole mynde shuld fere it: whatsomeuer thynge shu'de be
able to hurt for euer without any ende: wherin there can
noon be fauerable: ꝑ can bryng any helpe / or succour ther
to. z. The thirde is: ꝑ a wyse mynde shuld seke cõtynual
diligently with all hir studies / and besinesse is those ioyis:
whom no desese / nor no strength / or powar can breke. a.
The fourth is: ꝑ a mynde / good state well wit selfe shuld

sorowe ſperially that losse: whome no pleaſer folouth/but euer laſtynge ſorowe: by whom also the lyfe/and helth periſhith. b. Thou ſhuldiſt ſet nought by all other thynges but as the vſe of hoſpitalite is ſet by: from whens the geſt makith hym redy to departe ſhortly. c. Moreouer thou ſhuldiſt beleue/and thynke verily: that thoſe worldly goodis be but as a burthen/and ſore greuyng deſeſis: the whiche eyther kylle the: or elles let thy iourney. d. A wepfarynge man/ þ hath a iourney to do: ought to ſhonne/ or auoyde an heuy burthen/and also diſeaſe/and ſikenes: that he may performe his iourney: the whiche iourney be gonne all redy he couetith to go. e. This temporall lyfe is the wey: that we goo by the tother lyfe/ that is to come: ſhall be oure owne trewe contrey/ or ellis the tother life/ þ is to come: ſhall geue vs cõtynuall banyſſhment for euer. f. If it be our trew countrey: that we turne agen to: we be goynge to our dere welbelouyd auncetours/and to our ſpeciall belouyd fathers/ & mothers: that one maner reſte may longe to vs all. g. But & it be banyſſhement: þ we go to: there ſhall the laſte ſpotte/corrupcion/ or poyſon of ſorouſull wrechidnes receyue vs there also cõtynuall wepynge/and euerlaſtinge fire ſhall receyue vs. h. They turne agen into theyr countrey: that haue vſyd the gyfte of an hole wyſe mynde: whyle they ware lyuynge in this worlde and þ haue worde out/and ridde themſelfe from the ſhrewde troublefull/aduerſites/ and ſorowes of this deceytfull worlde. i. Contrary now on the tother parte they enter theyr banyſſhemẽt of euerlaſtynge peyne in helle: that cowde not turne themſelfe to the verye trewe goodnes of vertuſe lyuynge: becauſe they were dryuyn by theyr owne errowres/ and wronge opynyons fro the ryghte weye: that ſhulde abroughte theym agen oute

of this troublefull worde into ther owne restfull countrey.
k. The mynde errith as ofte: as reason berith no rule: ⁊ when the mynde seith those thynges: that be good: folowynge theym: that be lesse good. l. But nowe we haue goon very moche from oure purpose with oure bryngynge in so many thynges and therfore now the cause/ and ꝓright of our matir watnyth vs to turne ageyne/ and to folowe apon oure purpose. m. Oure begynnynge was to shewe: howe the mesure of meuynge shulde be ordere ⁊ what cumlynes/ or hightynes shynyth/ ⁊ is perceyuyd to be conuenyent in all thynges. n. In this matir of mesure/ and semlynes all oure comunycacion/ or proses shal be belyde as clerely/ and playnly: as oure metir can bryng to passe. o. Firste of all therfore thou shuldist stody to kepe conuenyens/ or proporcion for there is woute to longe great strength of honeste to the dutese/ or prepurtese therof. p. Hit/ that is callyd cõuenyens: is coũtid to be twayn maner wyse sethyn there shuld be one certeyne cõuenyẽs of the mesurar: longyng prope to hym and a nother certen conuenyens/ or proporcion more comyn the whiche is more generall. q. Hit/ that they call comyn: is hit: whom all honeste compenyeth and longith to hit and withoute honeste hit can not be. r. This comyn conuenyence is oppn more aperynge to the eyes/ and also to the eris: than the tother is: that longith to moderacion. I suppose: there can nothynge be well/ nor good without this generall cõuenyens. s. This comyn conuenyence shuld/ or nedyd to a be callyd none other thynge: than a conuenyence/ a good behaueoure/ a good demeanoure/ or a due proporcion of those thynges: that men do well/ or wysely. t. And lyke as the shappe is myngylde in all the body: and yet it is not the body: but rather hit: ꝑ longith to the body: euyn

so likewyse this comyn conuenyens is perceyuyd to be in hit: that is well seyde/ or done by the mynde: the which conuenyens hightith the same thynge: that is wel aftir good maner: the whiche also because of the hightynge delitith men: when they perceiue/ or vnderstonde it to be in ꝑ thynge: that is well. v. This conuenyent ornacion meuyth mennys myndis: as the feyre beuteful shap of the body delitith/ holdith still/ and meuyth theyr eyes with the pleser therof. x. Thou mayste perceiue hit/ that is callyd this comyn goodlynes: with ꝑ inwarde eye of thy mynde more properly: than I can open/ and declare it by tunge/ or penne. y. But there is a nether conuenyens/ or hightynge: that regardith/ and longith to ꝑ parte of honesty: that temperith/ and rulith the meuyngis: that be propre to the body. z. This conuenyens is put/ and consitherid in the rayment/ in the meuyng of the body/ in the mesure/ in the voyce/ in the bashefulnes or boldnes of visage/ in the hightyng of the body: and in the tyme/ or seson when/ and also in the place: where euery thynge shuld be seyde/ or done.

the Twentyth alphabete. xx. xx.

a. This propertee of behauour causith: that thou mayste plese: and be specially acceptable to all men: and that a cõtynual good name may come amonge ꝑ peple of the: how gayly thou behauyst thyselfe. b. And therfore thou shuldist not dispise: sett ynge at nought: what all ꝑ peple shuld thynke/ or iuge of the: for it is a greuous thynge to dispise the iugement of all men. c. Therfore obbey ꝑ iugemẽt of the peple: for he is supposid to be proude: that preysith his owne dedis alone hymselfe. d. There be some certen fowle vicis: ꝑ offende/ & greue mennys mynde: as dartis sende by hande defile the body. e. yet/ though these offẽsis be grete on bothe the partis: we call these ꝑ offende the

mynd is no warse/ but shamles: whome we myght call be
ry foule/ or abhominable and we call them ẏ meue/ and
do violent dedis agenste the body no warse/ but vnrigh-
tous: whome we myghte call cursid/ and myschefull: if we
wolde name them after they dedis. f. Beleue not: ẏ the
conuenyens of the body shulde be kepte only: but also the
inwarde conuenyens of the mynde shuld be kepte moche
more rather ẏ grete diligens. g. But euery man maye
be able to hight his mynde goodlily: if reson hirselfe hold/
and kepe hir po warein hir owne warde: or ellys if she ta-
keagen quyckly hir holy cheyar: that she shulde sitye: if she
be throwen downe frome hir owne sete. h. Here in this
matir firste of all thou shalt kepe thyselfe from foule incon
uenyent rasshe anger: the whiche disfiguryth the counte-
nans of the vysage/ and also the mynde. i. What thynge
may a body se fowler than an angry coũtenãs: when ẏ fo
myng licore rennyth from his rabbisshe mouth. k. So/
like a rasshe angry man: a bore fomythout: when he is clo
sid in with a compeny of barkynge houndis a bowthym
so lykewyse an horse fomyth: when he is chasid with the
hyrdell: that is to sey a rasshe angry man fomyth like a bo
re/ & an horse: when they be chasid. l. A body shulde not
call hym a man: whome farquent rasshe anger sterith vppe
into mad rauynge for/ when he is turnyd amonge those
hell spyritis: that be callyd furie: then he begynnyth to be a
wylde beest. m. He leseth his witte/ and reson like a ra-
uynge/ and a mad man: and than anon forthwithall it re-
pentith hym of his dede: that he hath done. n. Thou
shalt caste by thyselfe/ and auyse thyselfe well afore: howe
thou mayste flye this poyson of rasshe anger: that thou
mayste be sure of thy selfe: auoydynge hit: if any cause of
rauynge happen to come to the. o. Like as he/ that

seith his ennmyes afore:ere they cum at hym:watchith in
highe place:loo watche thou:leste rasshe anger cum rous-
shynge apon the:ere thou be ware. p. And/ when thou
goiste out of thyne howse:take thyne harnes redy: prouy
dyng for thy selfe afore thy first entryng out:as though þ
shuldist go to fyghtyng. q. And make þ redy:as thouh
thou shuldist be a ferde:lest parauenture theuys / or ellys
some other soden ennmy shulde haue po ware to hurte the.
r. yet/if thou happyn to be slydynout into rasshe angre
yere thou be ware:thou shuldiste not suffer thy selfe to sye
drowmyd theryn a great whyle. s. In the meyn whyle/
thou arte in thy rasshe angre:do no ponysshement about
any faute for rasshe angre hath no mesure in ponysshemẽ
tis doynge. t. Thou shalt defye alwey ouermoche cruel
nes:and thou shuldist loue litle ponysshement: lyke a cha
ritable ponyssher specially if thou chaste thy swete fostir
childzen:beyng to them as a fathir:sethyn a lytle ponysshe
ment of a father shuld be conuenyent apon his childzen.
v. Sethyn nature hath made the obedyent to forgeue
nes:that thou muste nedis haue hit also thy selfe:thou shul
diste not folowe in cruelnes other wylde rude beestis: ru-
de rabbisshe also thy selfe full of crewelnes. x. Theme-
uynge also contrary to rasshe angre(and that is excedyn
ge myrthe)shuld be eschewyd/or avoydid: the which is al
wey busyly vsid in pley/and spoyte. y. Nature hath not
gendrid vs for pleyes/and spoytis but hit requyrith of vs
moche saddir warke/and busynes. z. Thou shuldist be
profetable in thy seyinges moze/than mericõceytid in thy
voyce/and wordis sad thynges shuld be busily vsid but
the spoyte specially shuld be seldoner than sadnes.

A yet hit/that they call nature:lettith not vs to pley/nor to

ſpoꝛte but it requyꝛith: ꝯ meſure ſhuld be had in all thyn-
ges. b. It is not ſittyng: ꝯ thou ſhuldiſt be fledde foꝛ thy
clubbiſſhenes: as an harde/ ⁊ a roughe boyſturs felowe
noꝛ alſo that thou ſhuldiſte be nought ſetby foꝛ thy light-
nes of behaucour. c. Let not thy woꝛſhyp/ oꝛ pꝛeyſe be
gatte with pley/ ⁊ ſpoꝛte: thynkyng thyſelfe agay felowe:
becauſe thou ſhuldiſt be made/ ⁊ countid a comyn pleyar:
wandꝛyng about thꝛough all the citey. d. As it hath al-
wey be lauful foꝛ thē: ꝯ be wery: to reſtoꝛe theyꝛ ſtrēgthis
with reſte: euyn ſo is it laufull foꝛ the to refreſſhe thyſelfe
with mery wyſe cōceytis: bꝛid but ſeldon. e. And/ when
thou myngyſte ſpoꝛte with thy companyon: meſure it ſo
after ꝯ maner with thy woꝛdis: that thou fall not lightlye
thyſelfe fro that wyſe diſcrete ſtedfaſtnes: that ſhulde be
kepte alwey both in myꝛth/ and ſadnes. f. Let thy ſpoꝛte
be manerly/ moderate (not to outragis) and honeſte/ oꝛ
ellys ſuche: wherin moche wyt may ſhyne/ ⁊ apere gayly.
g. Therfoꝛe/ when tyme ſhalbe to ſpoꝛte: thou ſhalt not
fle like a ribalde reuelar' but let ther be ſubſtans i thy ſpoꝛ-
te with mery wyſe conceytis' and let thy meuynge alſo it
ſelfe be ſadde: not to rabbiſſhe wylde. h. Thy voyce/
when thou ſpoꝛtiſt the: ſhulde not be louſid out rennynge
apon riot with ouermoch crying out' noꝛ let not thy pace/
oꝛ goynge be haſty/ ⁊ ſuche after that maner: to the which
maner ther is grete riſynge of the people comynly. i.
Thou ſhuldiſt beware: that thy ſpoꝛtfull woꝛdis ſhulde
hurte noo body' let them make noo man heuy/ oꝛ ſadde' let
thy ſpoꝛtfull woꝛdis be gentilmanly wyſe reſons without
any touth: ſnatchynge at any body lyke a curre. k. Alſo
my wꝛytynges let/ oꝛ warne no man to laughe honeſtlye
after ſad maner' but a goodly beutefull viſage ſhonnyth/
oꝛ eſche with ouer moche laughynge foꝛ diſfigurynge hit-

selfe. l. For so the ouer moch laughyng is foule/ vnseme ly for/ whē hit is throwē out a boute at euery fausi: it hath sumwhat of vnstedfastnes after ỹ maner of a chylde: and/ when it is brokē out into a noyse: it hath somewhat of outragyng after the maner of a woman. m. He is hate worthy: that woll laughe pryuely like a backebiter: and he also: that woll louse his mouthe lappyng/ and mockyng at an other mannys losse/ or hurte. n. Amonge all pleyis thou shuldist eschewe/ or forbere that pley: wherby wynnyng is sought for: for therof cūmyth strife comynly: and that pley shulde be forborne also: wherby thou thyselfe makyste ouer moche losse of tyme. o. If thou/ that wolt pley: be a yonge man: seke ỹ some pley of labore: that shuld geue a cause of erercysyng some profet: as to breke thyselfe in some feet of warre: the whiche pley yet thoughe it be a cause of pfet: thou shuldist mesure: in geuyng thyselfe not to moche to it. p. I sawe neuer olde man pley/ and yet lese no tyme: that was an ercedynge man/ and indude with a conuenyent sadnes. q. Also I haue not say a yonge man geue hymselfe to ouer moche pley: of whome there shulde be hadde any hope of a speciall goodnes in tyme cōmynge. r. When thou arte wery of study: and couetiste to refresshe thyselfe: vse walkynge: and let thy commyn walkynge be with wyse men/ and with cummynge men: of whom thou mayste haue lernynge also in thy sporte ynge whyle. s. The counforte of walkynge incressith the strengthis of the witte: and the walkynge hitselfe causith the lymmys of the body to be prescruyd in good state no lesse: than the coūfort therof refresshith the mynde. t. Also lette the plesser of bodily wantonnes fele: that there is a brydell agenste hit: lest hit shuld walke out at large as farre: as the luste therof is. v. He/ that geuyth hymselfe

ouermoche to the wanton luste of the body: and obeyith the rouse of his mouthe geupynge hymselfe to delicatis: as hit prouokyth hym: is but a rude beest in dede: callyd a man only by name. r. Euery man shall be able to subdue the flamys of his wanton loue: that hath takyn awey the noyssh̄mentis: that were apte/ or meit to his fyres of loue. y. And he shall be able also: that meuyth besilye nothynge in his mynde/ auoydyng all occasions: that shulde steryppe ẏ fyre of loue & dryvkyth not: saue when sobyrnes is kepte of hym: folowynge not his sensuall appetyd. z. Fall not oute by thy wyll into hondigrype of the strifte betwene the/ and thy mate doutfull: whether of you shulde haue the vpper hande. beware: thou fall anhande apon no stryftis with thy spouse/ and thy table neyther at bedde/ nor bourde: for in these thre thynges (counfortable cõpeny/ fode/ & slepe) stondith all mannys helthe.

a. Also say not by thy wyll: howe sobre/ and howe chaste thou canst be: when thy paramoure/ and the table by you is made redy for the. b. When ẏ towe of ẏ flare is set beryenyghe a grete rasshe fyre: it is harde to cause: that the flame of that grete fyre shulde not turne hitselfe sodenlye to the dryve towe so nyghe hit. c. loke: thou stryue afar of agenste foule thynges: wherby thou mayste ouercome theym the bettyr: prouyde that the ryot wylfull knotte of raskell enter not into thyne howse. d. vndersette the gates/ or the dorys with barris: that they come not in: for hit is no surete to myngle handis with theym. e. Thou mayste beleue verily: that those wylfull riotours woll not awey̆e withoute the beynge ouercome in conclusion: soo that thou shalt be subduyd thyselfe/ and spoylyd of them.

f. Victorye in this mater is gatte onlye in flyinge

awey. what thynge may a body maruell moze at the re-
warde of victozy is geuyn to flyght: to hym: that flyith.
g. Nowe shortly to cõclude if parauenture thou shuldist
go/ & be takyn a pzysonar of Cupido the god of loue: thou
shuldist redeme thyselfe agen quicly with as litle money:
as thou canst. h. Shake awey those snaris fro thy wze-
chid necke thou shuldist ley strength therto: and flie thens
foz tarying is full of hurte. i. Foz whosomeuer hath fla
tirde onys with Uenus the goddes of wanton loue: obey
inge hir appetyd: he is wonte comonly to be soze verid of
hir with the hot fyze of loue. k. And/ as god is clene fro
the flesshe/ and carnall appetyd: soo lyke wyse studye thou
man to be farre fro the pleser of the flesshe: sethyn thou art
verily the Image/ and shap of the heuynly mynde: whom
god hath made aftir his owne shappe. l. Thoughe thou
syn pziuely: yet thou art alweyse a witnes agenst thyselfe.
why shuldist thou dzede a nother man moze than thyselfe
in that thynge: wherin the grettist hurt to the warde cum-
myth of thy selfe. m. Ozden/ and dispose thy meuyngis/
oz thoughtis goodly: that lye hidde within the and inde-
uer thyselfe therto neuer ẏ lesse: because parauẽture they
be vnknowyn to other men. n. Foz it skyllith litle: though
no man ellis perceue those meuynges: ẏ thou seiste stilly/
oz secretly by thyselfe alwey nyght/ & day. o. The hurte-
full obstinate appetyd of the vnclenlye carnall dede is vi-
cius in all folke of euery age but there can nothynge be
fowler in olde men than it. p. Moreouer this fozsothe
agreith to olde men meit foz them: ẏ they shulde gouerne
yonge folke with theyz good exaumples/ and counsels.
q. The olde men shuld shewe themselfe such with theyz
comunycacions afoze them: that be yonge folke: that they
myght be louyd/ & reuerenst alwey with moche honoure/

and worshyp. r. For this profetable and sad behaueour only olde age was worthy to be reuerãsid and worshyppid sumtyme in olde leson for this cause only they also / ꝑ were fathers themselfe: wold with good wyll reuerens / & worshyp theyr olde auncetours. s. But nowe contrary on the tother parte yonge folke shulde reuerans / and worshyp oldage they shulde also be cõpanyons / and an helpe / and comforte to the longe iourney: ꝑ theyr wery olde age hath hadde in this worlde. t. The diligent compeny of vthe shall cleue to the olde men: folowynge them alwey: whether the courte of lawe shulde requyre theym / or ellys the festis of the holy day. v. of whome also the yonge men shall desyre to knowe: whose rulis they shuld folow and also whose dedis rather shuld be folowyd of them.

x. There is (I sey it for a trothe) a great tokyn of vertu in that yonge man: that reioycith to vysit an olde man reuerently with seruyable diligens. y. Let laboure / & the sufferynge of hardnes custome / and make stronge the bodyes of yonge men to resiste styfly theyr carnall appetyd: that reson may bere rule with them: they shuld be refraynyd specially fro ꝑ foule wanton vyce of the flesshe / and from ouermoche wyne. z. And let homly metis of small coste be setfourthe afore them: and let the table be vsyd after the comyn course for the bely shuld be satisfyde only / and not the delicate wosande / or throte pype.

the Thre and twentyth alphabete.xxiii.

a. Let not a grete namyd kechyn sende delicatis to a yonge man but let hym be content with those metis: that his fathers sparynge kechyn hath sesonde sufficiently. b. But also men shuld not geue themselfe to sloggysshenes in theyr oldeage moze: than they shulde in theyr vthe for who can denye: but that many thynges be able to be done

of olde men. c. A man shal eyther rede or write: as soon as he is comeageyne fro the holy house of god: where he was anone at the firste rysynge of the sonne. d. But let children lerne apace: and also let theym leyup many thynges in theyr harte/and mynde (the whiche shall be a grete treser for them: when they come to the ripe age of studye/ and exercyse) for it is yefe to cõstrayne a chylde to bere the yoke of laboure. e. And care not: thoughe he haue not perceyuyd the sentensis in euery poynte to the vtmoste: when he reherseth by mynde many bokys in order: as he lernyd them. f. For the sede/that is throwyn abrode in the grounde: differrith by the space of certeyne monethis the bryngynge forthe of his budde: and yet it woll bryngehit forthe afterwarde. g. In the mene whyle hit is norsshid in the bely of the erthe: the whiche is as a mother to hir to whome lyngestill in hir bely she mynystreth hir strengthis: causynge hit to bryngefourthe frute in the seson conuenyent. h. Soo lykewyse a chylde shall perceyue then/when he is an olde man: those thynges yeldynge hym theyr frutis: whatsomeuer thynges he hath takyn of his tender yeris fro the tyme: that he was a chylde. i. Let thy rayment be conuenyent for the/and acordynge for sadnes: lest thy garment vnkeuer/and vtter hit: that lyith hidde in thyne harte. k. For the garment vnkeuerith/and shewith many softe delicate men aperynge also owtewardlye: as they be inwardlye: and so the rawe queysye boyle/that lyith secretlye gendred within: commyth owte: aperynge also outwardelye. l. That lytle sory whelke/that aperith redde in the vtmoste parte of the flesshe: is a tokyn shewyng of sory corrupte bludde within the flesshe. m. Thou shuldiste beleue: that delicatis be rather meit for wemen/than for men though I can

not preyse theym not euyn in a woman: if they be very moche vsid of hit. n. Wherfore/ if delicatis be pleserfull to the: houe not in theym/ takynge pleser apon them: lyke a softe tender delicate felowe and agenon ꝑ tother parte/ if they be not pleserfull to the: despyse theym not thyselfe to thyn owne peyne and sorowe: greuynge thyn owneselfe with theym. o. A man shulde count hit an vnsemelye thynge/ and also a shamefull laughynge/ or a mockynge stocke for hym to take womennys rayment/ and softe meke meuynges of the body/ and a demure cõtenans lyke a mayde. p. What is more agenste nature/ or cumlynes than a man to lede his lyfe vnder a womans rayment: takynge hymselfe as a woman. q. Thoughe thou be pore: yet thou shuldiste lacke/ and be withoute filthe thou oughtiste to lyue clenlye for hit is not lauful for any man/ not euyn for hym: that is a poore man: to be fylthye and also thou shuldiste not seme a clubbissh he slouen of the contrey therfore fle bothe tenderues in trifflynge/ and pikynge thyselfe ouer moche/ and also harde boysturs clubbissh hednes in ouerlitle highrynge thyselfe. r. And therfore he/ that forbiddith the to be curyus ouer moche tryflynge thyselfe: cauſith the not to be boysturs slouenlyke/ and harde full of nyggarde frowardnes for he/ if he be a wyse man: alowith hit: that is betwene theym bothe in the myddill.

s. Hit is vnsemely: whatsomeuer thynge drawith ouer moche to the vtmoste partis hit drawith to a preyse: that holdith the inmoste poynte/ and the myddyll betwene to moche/ and to litle. t. Lette symple homelynes of the table plese the: that is not aparelde by crafte/ and grete curiosite the which maner of sparynge maye only (without any gaye apparell) put awey hunger. v. Let thy mete/ and drynke be sufficient Inoughe for the and lette

not thy table geue the any voluptuosnes/and riot wast-
full pleser but let hit geue ꝑ thy mete nakyd/or bare with-
out any gay aparell. x. Let thy longe hunger hitselfe
sterup the fastynge greedy appetyd of thy mouthe let not
the swete taste/that is founde by crafte:stroke thy delica
te wolonde with gluttynfull pleser. y. Thou shuldiste
not nomber thy dilthes at the table for thou shuldiste not
haue so many therto but calfore/ and take good holsome
metis and suche a melis mete shulde pleyse the:as plesid
thyn auncetours somtyme in olde sesonthe whiche was
but of homely bittels:takyn towarde the latir ende of the
day whom we calla supper:vsinge nowadayes a nothir
mele afore hit callyd a dyner/ye and yet a nother afore ꝑ
callyd a brekefaste with certen luncryse/and bankettis be
twene them/and a rire supper laste of all so that riche deli
cate folke cõmynly destrye themselfe with surfetis. Is not
this a grete abusion/fatre out of ordir: that folke shulde
destroye themselfe with that thynge: that is ordeynyd to
preserue them. y. And count it not to be of a grete rialte:
that worshyppe shulde be gatte the by a plentethfull ke-
chyn that thou shuldist be seruyd with many gay denteth
dilthis at thy table but study rather for sobrnes to be cõ-
tent with a litle.

the Foure and twentyth alphabete.24.xxiiii.
a. And yet thoughe a body shulde be content with a litle:
thou shalt not be so moche sparynge: that thou shuldiste
go vnder the name of a couetyse nyggarde and soo shul-
diste be made a comyn bablynge of the peple: that be thy
neyghburs obout the. b. Take none hede to set lawis/
and to hynde stratlye other folke to the/or the to theym a
bowte very smalle thynges: that there shulde no place/
or liberte vtterly at any sesonbe geuyn to myrthe/or spor-

te. c. For a small thynge in dede (as hit hynge apromes abowte a tryfyll) bryngith otherwhyle a very grete inconuenyens: and yet (though it had be kepte) it hath nothyng of profet. d. But when ther be many grete partis / and cauſis of conuenyens: that parte / or cauſe is chefe: wherby we knowe: how we ſhuld varye owre chaungis / or courſis. e. Honeſte is not one maner alwey in euery ſeſon: but it is tumyd into many maners: as a certen proficier ſumtyme callyd Proteus was wonte to turne hymſelfe into many maner dyuerſe ſhappis: when hym liſte. f. For whatſomeuer thynge be ſemyd a body: when he was a ponge man / and a tender litle chylde: thoſe ſame maner thyngis can not beſeme hym alſo: whē he is an olde man. g. The condicion of ſtate / or degre / the office of diguyte / the ſeſon of doynge / and the age of a body puttith diffe rens in thynges: ſo that thou ſhuldiſt count hit ſhameful to the nowe at one ſeſon: that beſemyd ꝑ afore at a nother ſeſon. h. And therfore now / that thou arte an officer: leue hit: that thou vſiſte afore: when thou were pryuate out of office for nowe the comyn cauſe / or profet requyrith an other thynge of the: than thou were bounde to afore. i. Now / ꝑ thou dwelliſt in ꝑ citey: let thoſe rabbiſſhe cruell wordis go: the whiche cruell rabbiſſhe wordis were vſid of the in the myddle of the tentis / or bendis of ſoudyars: when thou were a capten a monge theym for peace / and quyetnes of the citey reſuſith / and defyth thoſe cruell crakynge wordes. k. If thou thyſelfe / when thou wariſt olde: be beſilye occupyde with the ſtudyes / or beſinellis: that longe to ponge men: knowe this for a trouthe: that thou leuyſte all thyn owne dutye ondone. l. Alſo / if the oldeage / that is growyn apon the: hath not chaungid thy maners / or condicions: thyn olde age ought to be fled

many maner wyle of euery good man as a foule myſhapyn creature. m. When thou were a yonge man: thou deſyriddiſte to contynewe thy lyfe euyn till olde age: but now therfore/that thou arte an olde man: a nother maner lyfe ſhulde be deſyryd of the. n. An agid man/that takyth an hande the craftis/or beſynellis of a childe (ſuch as children be wont to do) is worthy to be lawght to ſcorne in like maner: as if he wolde deſyre to ly/ & be rockyd in a cradill now in his holde dayes. o. Take hede thou/ that arte a preſte: how moche thou differſte frome other men in rayment: and euyn ſoo moche thou ſhuldiſt deſyre to differ fro theym thyſelfe in maners/or condicions.
p. And the gretter that tokyn of preſthode is: the which cloſithin the temples of thyn hede: ſo moche the more prouyſion of good maners ſhulde be had of the. q. Thou ſhuldiſte not doo: as euery man doeth: ſethyn none other man can be compard to the: that arte a preeſt therfore performe/and fynyſſhe a gretter warke: thã fallith for other men. r. If thou be made a lyon: ſtondynge in grete dignyte/and power: take apon the the condicions of a lyon to be gentle/and faueraill to theym: that obey the for hit is not lawfull/or a cordynge for the/thoughe thou be in any hyghe degre: to haue any thynge of high ſtatlynes aboue the cõdicions of a mowſe: the which of all beſtis hath leeſt comynly to be ſtately/or proude of. ſ. And/ſethen Chryſt hath geuen the ỹ eyes of an egle to loke highe: take vp an heyght for thou ſhuldiſte not go turnynge the erthe like a moll. t. When thou were a wariar of this worldly ſtrife: thou medliſte with weppyns & harnes of ſoudiars: ſuch as they ble but nowe/that thou arte ỹ wariar of Cryſte: take the croſſe as thy weppyns. v. When thou tokyſte apon the as a fyſycion: thou curediſte the bodyes of theyr deſe-

sis but nowe / thou arte made a shepardе: thou oughtist to pasture / and fede thy shipe. x. A good shepardе kepith his foulde: diligently watchynge on the nyght tyme: lest the rauenynge violens of the hungry wulfe shulde destroye his shepe. y. And soo it is not Inoughe for a shepardе: that he shulde onlye make hymselfe safe: but he ought to make his flocke safe also hymselfe: not trustyng to an other man. z. But whose despisith the lyfe of his foulde with his owne lyfe: caryng neyther for his flocke / nor yet for hymselfe: he shuld rightously be meuyd frome any flocke: that he shulde haue of his owne: so ꝑ he shulde not destroye hit also with hymselfe.

the fyue and twentyth alphabete. 25. xxvb.

a. Many knowliche themselfe (takynge apon them) to to be gydars of shepe: the whiche haue purcheste by lotte / or chaūce of fortune themselfe wrongefully those namis / that they bere: soo grete of dignyte / and worldy goodis. b. For they neyther tare for the gydynge of theyr fastynge / leen / hungrye folde: nor also / thoughe they wolde desyre to bryngе gyftis of norisshement / and fedynge to releue theyr wrechyd flocke fameshte for honger: they can not tell howe to doo hit for lacke of connynge. c. More ouer the shepardе / for all his litle takyng hede to fede his leue mynde with connynge. is seldon satisfyde with the fedynge of his body thoughe his deynteth rietfull wolsont meynteynyth callyngefore diligentlye al maner delicatis for his full stomake neuer empty. d. Take this with the also that thou shuldist lacke no parte of conuenyens takehede diligentlye: what maner persone (as in the countenans of the visage / and in the behaueoure of the body) shulde be more meit for the accordynge to thy nature / as hit requyryth: whether a merye / or a sadde. e. Hit is

to the preyse of some man to kepe a sadde countenans but to a nother a mery countenans agreith more mete. f. One maner man shall become foolisshe: if he wolde desyre to make hymselfe sad if a nother manerman wolde make hymselfe a mery man: he shalde no more apte therto: than the tother to be sadde. g. There is a nother maner man softe/or gentle/esy to be delte withall/ and mery cõceyted in his communycacion/he forsothe can haue nothyng of heupnes/or sadnes. h. A nother/as a good playne harmeles man: is become alwey a frende of the trothe/& of good forthright delyng. a nother can not speke playne homely: saue all þ he seyth: is spoken with moche gay crafte: whose dedis comynly be worste of all. i. Therfore sethyn nature ruleth: let euery man holde/and folowe hit: that nature hath properly geuyn hym so that he noysshe therwith nothynge of byce/nor hurt agenste any body. k. It is a worlde to beholde the husbandis of the countrey: wyse/& cõynge in theyr maters: the which put to euery grounde sedis conuenyent therfore. l. The husbande man seketh firste of all to knowe the nature of his prety felde and the he settith in þ tone parte such plantys/or setils: as þ coost hitselfe naturally coueryth. m. He fasteneth vyndis in the clyffis/and hylly placis/and in the valeyis wolurs/or elders. the olyue tre growith bettir in dry placis. n. The colde placis be graffid/and set for chestens/and the fatte ranke placis for appuls. the myrtre/and orengis growe comynly apon the see bankis. o. The pere tre reioyceth the hille. but the watyr lote tre growyth mooste comynlye amonge the ranke/fatte wattrs: & the plane tre growith moste therelykewyse. p. Therfore/because all other thynges folowe theyr nature: thou shuldiste knowe likewyse at þ leest thyn owne nature & when thou knowist it: thou

shalt also cleue besily to it: that thou mayst behaue thyselfe cõuenyently for those thynges beseme euery man: that be properly longynge to hym. q. Thou shuldiste indeuer thyselfe besily to be goodly in thy nowne naturall disposicion therfore laboure therto & let not those thynges / that longe more naturally to other men: be more worth to the / than thy nowne: that longe to the more naturally. r. A body auoydith not lightly hit: that he takyth naturally of the planettis and agen the cõtrary wyse a body shall not lightly gete it: that ỹ planet denyeth hym. s. When shall the wyld harte put awey his fere? when woll not the bull drede the lyon? and the litle lambe the wolfe? t. Or ellis when shall the cubbe / dronge for put awey his false wylynes? or ellis when shall the longe erid hare be without fere? v. The cormerant shall neuer leue dyuynge hymselfe vnder the watirs also the rauyn shall neuer synge so clene: as ỹ swan mesurith his notis. x. The roo shal neuer leue the wodis / nor the padocke the marise / nor the turtyll hir mournynge when she is syngynge apon the tre. y. When nature denyith: stryuynge agenste vs: we couet no thynge / whatsomeuer we desire: otherwyse: than dothe ỹ mariner: when he couetith to rowe his shippe vp the ryuer rennynge agenste hym. z. Whose draw with his shyppe in the waters rennynge agenst hym: he is not wont to reioyce his desiris longe.

the Sixt and twentyth alphabete.26.xxvi.

a. For sothe / when his strengthe is goon: ỹ laboure hath ouercome hym: he is throwne backe hedlyng in worse case: than he was: when he begunne. k. So lykewyse many tymes he / ỹ despisith his owne thyngis: besily ketchynge aboute othir mennys: neyther opteynyth other mennys: and yet he forgoth his owne. c. And soo / whose is

holdynge one thynge:and desyzith besily a nother:he lac-
kyth bothe many tymes:beguylid like a fole. d. But and
the gyfte/oz necessite of a Juge/oz an ozatoze/ such as lon
gith to theyz charge:requyze ꝑ parauenture to take apon
the the office/oz besynes therof:the which is vnknowne to
the:howe hit shuld be done:as because thou sholdist speke
excedynge gaylye in the comyn place amonge the peyple:
not withstandynge thou arte neyther rettrycion/ and yet
lesse a gramarion:then/if thou be cõstraynyd to any such
besynes:se foz the cause/oz mater afoze:ere thou go an hã
de therwith.and enquere besily of other connynge men to
lerne hit of theym:that thou canste not thy selfe thou shul-
diste lerne with soo grete diligens:that thy very labour
hitselfe myght fulfill hit:that thou canste not do by natu-
re:that/ though thou can not get thy selfe a name/ ꝛ pzeyse
by thy dede:thou shuldist not at the lest wyse gete thy selfe
shame/and selaũder therby. e. Thou shudist kepe styll
fozsothe that fozme of lyuynge the which fozme of lyuyng
hath onys be receuyd of the and also thou shuldist not so-
moche as desire to vary/and change it folisshly. f. yet/if
there be a reson foz the to change thy gyse of lyuynge:and
that thyn age also shulde pfozme ꝑ same:loke thou shew:
whyle thou arte changynge:ꝑ thou doste hit by the same
reson:lest parauenture thou shuldist be maruelid at. g.
Thou shuldist not be light: as ꝑ wynd wauerynge two/
and fro but thou shuldiste be meuable after the mater:as
the case requyzith:and substanciallye stedfaste in wozde/
and dede:and yet not harde to be intretid / and holdynge
faste of thy purpose agenste reson. h. Foz it cũmyth co-
mynlye of the lightnes of wytte to varye the gyse of ly-
uynge therfoze if it be done folisshely :that lightnes shall
be countid no lighte / small faute. i. Thou shuldiste

also chaunge by litle and litle the gyse of thy lyuyng then: when thou doest it for a chaunge made soddenlye lackith not suspicion of other men: that hit shuld be done for some inconuenyens. k. When thou arte an officer thyselfe: thenne put aweye thy pryuate mynde: that was wonte to be abowte thyn owne profette for thenne thou shuldiste counte thy selfe to be the hedde of the peple/ and prynspall for theyr profette. l. Then/ when thou arte theyr hed: the peple spekē/ and perceue: what shulde be for theyr profette: and prouyde for hit by the: takynge ꝑ for theyr doar in euery thynge therfore prouyde hit: that shulde be profetable to theym all. m. Commyn profettes shulde be proferde afore ꝑ pryuate: that longe but to mennys owne profette the lawyar shuld be forgetfull of hymselfe: when he pledith for the righte. n. Moreuer thou shuldiste obserue/ and kepe charilye that comlynes: that shulde be worthy/ and conuenyent/ acordynge for a reuerent/ worshipfull magestē and so thou shuldiste change thy mowth in spekynge/ and thy behaueoure in meuynge/ and countenans: when thou arte in an office of dignyte. o. A Juge in dede is forbade many thynges: and lykewyse also a meyre is forbade many thynges: that agre not for theyr dignyte: the whiche shulde not be forbede a pryuate man/ owte of office. p. Also bothe tyme/ and place is wonte otherwhyle to damme many thyngis: the wiche in an other seson be not soo muche as worthy to be notid/ or takyn hede of. q. That noble capten of warre callid Pericles/ the whiche for his grete wysdam/ & gaye eloquens was also one of the colligenars longynge to the citey of Atenys: rebukyd a certeyne colligenar of his compenye/ callid Sophocles: acordynge to his deseruynge: because Sopho. lokyd apon a chylde stedfastly: whyle he shuld a

geuyn/ & mynystrid the holy rightis. r. If Sophocles had done that same thynge (that is to sey a lokid apon the chylde) in the felde/ ye and in the myddill of the wrestlyng place: there had be no cause of chydynge for the Pericles' thou woldist not a chidde with hym therfore. s. Therfore like as the strynges kepte in order agre to the harpe: that the sounde therof mesurid by crafte shulde plese with a grete delyte the eris of the herars: makynge them couetyse to here it: euyn so the seson/ the persone/ the place/ and ỹ age shuld agre: that ỹ properte/ & semelynes of doynge may shyne out/ & apere gayly. t. It fallith also for a cyte syn pryuate out of office to lyue equale rightously wt his citesyns: and not to be wyllynge to subdue his felowes. v.

And yet he shulde not suffer to be brought vnder lower: than is the degre of hym: with whome right woll: that he shuld lyue after ỹ lawe/ and maner equale to them bothe.

x. Beware: that thou be not so softe harmles/ & meke: ỹ thou shuldist be despisid of any body as a dawisshe wretche & while thou woldiste be softe/ & gentle: beware thou be not shepisshe halfe dede like one cowde neyther good/ nor harme. y. Thou shuldist not seme/ or a pere to any man couetyse of reuerens/ and malaperte: that he shulde count the a proude sawsy felowe therfore loke thou submytte thyselfe gentylly: takynge not to moche apon ỹ but yet throwe not a wey thyselfe take forth thyselfe honestlye after a good lowly maner. z. Thou shalte be equale felowe lyke with thy comperis but also beware: despise not thy inferiouris: that be of a lower degre/ or state thou shuldist also reuerẽs with an equale softe pacient mynde thy superiours: that be of an hyer degre/ or state.

a. yet thou shuldiste not drede them: ỹ be thy superiors:

beynge sadde with grete fere for whomsomeuer is with-
out faute: ferith not. b. O howe moche ought a body to
lacke/ and be clene without any foule spotte for this thyn
ge only maketh men without fere. c. Let not stryfe/ or
debate plese ꝑ but as moche as thou canst: prouyde for ꝑ
restfull/ and cōtynuall comyn welthe: as a louer of the cō-
myn pece. d. Reuerens alweye (with honoure accordyn-
ge) them: that haue done well now alredy the comyn pro-
fettis and them also: ꝑ stonde nowe in office there aboute
the comyn welth. e. Honoure/ and reuerens them also:
whom the name of vertue hath poblysshed: and made to
be knowne for theyr vertue. it is also a gay thynge: that ꝑ
fathers/ and mothers shulde be had in honoure amonge
theyr chyldren. f. If thou thyselfe parauenture tary in a
citey: where thou arte but a straunger: take thou no care
or besynes of any citey matir there. g. But let the care
of thyn owne besynes tary only with the: medlynge with
none other mennys matirs: lest any body say to the Goo
thou owte straunger wherto medlyste thou with our ma-
ters. h. But thou also oughtiste not to despise straūgers:
whan thou arte a citezyn at home but thou shuldist accep-
te euery man demurely/ and louyngly in thy citey: ꝑ thou
dwellist in. i. He/ that is hardehartid agenst strangers:
putrith awey from hym all hit: that longith to mankynde:
riddynge hymselfe clene therof and prouyth hymselfe to
beturnyd into a cruell wylde beeste. k. The cruell ty-
rant Lycaon turnyd by his cruell murther his hymmys
into the lymmys of a wolfe for none other cause: saue ꝑ he
was cruell/ and eger of murther agenste straūgers. l.
Thou shuldist beleue/ & thynke verily: ꝑ euery burthen &
grefe of this worlde shuld be able to be suffrid of ꝑ but ꝑ
filthynes/ the which filthynes greuyth ꝑ: shall not be able

to be sufferde of the. m. That filthynes greuyth: whatsomeuer turnyth vpsydowne honest maners and hit also: whatsomeuer makith a body to be of an euyll name. n. Thou shalt keuer thy vnclenly lymmys after shamefast/ bashfull nature: as she commaundith for nature/ sethyn she keuerth theim hirselfe: is thy maisters: techynge ꝑ to do the same. o. A disgyser/ ꝑ goeth into a secret corner callyd a sene of the pleyinge place to chaũge his rayment: forsenyth hymselfe a breche: the whiche ar ꝑ lest wyse he kepith styll apon hym: whatsomeuer pagent he pleyith: lest he shuld shew hit: whatsomeuer ꝑ shamefaste/ and honest la we of kynde keuerth. p. Thou shuldist not suffer therfore: ꝑ this disgyser/ or pleyar shuld be more shamefast/ & honestir thã thou: to whom it is laufull wout any rebuke to be euyll/ and vnclenly acordynge to his pagent. q. Also thou shuld not beleue those vnclenlyr peple callyd Cinici: trustynge to theyr doctryne: to whome (after theyr fugement) all maner namys behonest: be they neuer so foule but thou shuldist be ware to sey any foule wordis openly. r. Thou shuldist absteyne fro foule seyingis: spekyng sadder thynges for foule ribbalde comunycacions haue losse of shame with them: caulynge acꝑ lasse shame/ & chastite to be loste in them: ꝑ vse those foule wordis. s. Let ther be a circumlocucion vsyd of the by a lenger weye of other wordis: when nede requyrith to speke of those vnclenly partis of a man/ or a woman for forsothe ꝑ mynde ought to thynke/ & the tunge to speke honest thynges. t. For foule seyinges come pryuely to the Inner secret placis of ꝑ mynde & so they trouble ꝑ harte: whom quyetfull reste holdith in hir warde: till it be mouyd. v. And therfore thou oughtiste to despyse those foule babblynges as moche: as thou despysyste thynges: ꝑ stynke shrewdlye &

as thou refuſyſt a ſlyther place: when thou goiſte fourth about any beſynes. r. For it/ that ſhynkith: greuyth the noſethrylys: and a ſlythry wey ꝑ ſolis of the feit but foule wordis corrupte good clenly cõdicions. y. No man ſhulde ſpeke medlynge in that craſte: wherof he hath lernyd nothyng forther is many tymes one/ or other ꝑſent: that woll deuyde his ſeyinges. ſ. A laten man/ that is but litle lernyd in greke: can not vtter properlye with his mouthe greke wordis. and alſo/ thoughe he cowde do it: the declaret of Virgill (and of ſuche other laten warkes) ſhall not be a greke.

the Eyght and twentyth alphabete. as. rrbiiii. a. He/ that hath ſtudid the la wis: ſhulde lett ſpekynge about medlons go to whom/ that ſo doth medle with medlons: leuynge his owne ſciens: let ꝑ olde woman geue credens onelye: the whiche is ignorant vnknowynge: what ſhe doth ſpecially in ꝑ matir. b. Moreouer in a bodyes pace/ or goynge ought to be kepte his owne proper goodlynes: ſethyn it aperith alwey openlye to all men: that loke apon it. c. For a bodyes pace/ or goynge is iugid ſadly many tymes for by hit a bodye maye perceyue oftentymys the cõdicions of the mynde. d. Therfore a bodyes pace ſhuld not be ſlowe/ nor haſty but that pace ſhulde be louyd: whom we iuge to be tomoche in neyther parte/ but equale betwene them bothe. e. It pleſyth not wyſdã: that a bodye ſhulde goo/ like hym: that berith meſſys of mete to the table: ſofte and feyre for ſhedynge: and lokynge vpwarde to kepe his breth fro the mete: nor like as a bryde is wonte to go: lokynge downewarde for ſhame: when ſhe is delyueryd to bed to the brydegrome hir huſbande. f. yet/ though a bodye ſhulde not goo ſofte: as we haue ſhowed afore: he ſhulde not goo ſoo faſte: that

he shuld pighe: as one ꝑ were very wery with ouer moch
cennynge nor also he shuld not go noslynge with his hed
bendynge downe warde: but lokynge streyght forwarde.
g. And thou shalt fynde the maner / and forme of good-
lynes in wordis no lesse / than in bodily mouyng: for thou
mayste bere grete ꝓyse in spekynge. h. Whyle thou spe-
kiste amonge thy felowes / and welbelouyd cõpanyons:
then thy speche shuld be somwhat lowe in thy mouth / not
to highe / nor (as they sey) to iocunde: for that is a token of
ꝓsumcion. i. But when thou shalte speke in the comyn
place amonge the peple: pledynge thy mater: then strifte
muste be had greter: than is mete betwene the / and thy fe-
lowes: and therfore thy voyce muste flye amonge the eris
of the peple: after ꝑ it is put out fro the v̄ grete strengthis
of thy breste. k. yet thou shuldist studye to vtter thy wor-
dis quiche with a bery clere voyce: thoughe they be spo-
kyn with a grete stomake nature shall geue ꝑ a clere voy-
ce: moreouer / if nature woll not do so moche for the: thyn
owne diligens shall geue it the. l. If thou medle with
sadde thynges: take apon the a sadde countenans: if thou
medle with ought: ꝑ is somewhat light of lytle substans:
let there be a mery conceyte aperynge in thy forhed / or vi-
sage. m. Thou shuldist be more sad in thy iugement /
than in thy cõmunycacion: let thy lyfe be more sad / than
thy coũtenans. n. Let thy talkyng be seloud v̄ wysdā:
and let it obey thy felowe with a good wylle: and count it
a cumely thyng many tymes for the to be ouercome in tal
kynge: sufferynge a nother man to haue his wordis. o.
Let thy wordis be pleserful / obedient to noo body: if thou
be a trewe seyar: holdynge the trewe parte but yet a me-
sure ought to be had in this mater. p. For it is Inough
indede to shewe thy selfe to disagree to his seying therfore

leue spekynge foule to hym:to whom thou consentist not.
q. Harkyn thy felowis:when thou haste spokyn thyn owne wordis for it is a foule thynge: if thou woldist desyre to speke all the wordis thyselfe alone. r. If any body wolde stryue agenst the with wordis(ye and that fallsly) yet obey hym the frowarde felow'lest parauenture thou shuldiste fall in brawlyngis with hym. s. Thou shuldist not therfore trouble other men:that desyre to here:because these thynges/that shuld be seyd:delyte the but litle.
t. But rather here other men pacientlye:whatsomeuer they speke'let speche also go out of thy mouth but selden.
v. Thoughe it delyte the to be eyther heuy/or sadde in countenans:yet thou shuldist not disalowe other:whome it plesith to be mery. x. Noman shuld be despisyd of ꝑ: because thou art purer/and more goodly beseen/than he' but helpe hym rather thyselfe with thy counsell/and good dede. y. whyle thou spekyst:beware:lest sum talkynge/ when it is slypte fro thy mouth without abysement:shuld shewe ꝑ maner of desese:ꝑ lyth i thyn harte pryuely hid to thy selfe. z. Thou shuldist bacbyte no man:ꝑ is absent for then thou sempst a trayter strykynge a man apon the backe:yere he be ware. the.ir.t.xx.alpha.29.xxix. a. But take good hede also'lest thou shuldist seme to repre ue thy selfe:whyle thou disalowiste those men:the whiche men thou folowyst in thyn owne dedis. b. Whomesomeuer thou talkiste withall:loke that thou be content to honoure them'also thou shalt not so moche as seme to despise ꝑ leste/or poriste of ꝑ peple. c. But thou shuldist study rather:howe thou myghtist seme to loue all manet men' for this seying is trulye spokyn'noman louyth:saue he ꝑ is louyd. d. The fauer/and loue of all manet men must be gatte with ꝑ pleserfull wordis of them:ꝑ wold haue it'

and also olde frenshipp ought to be kepte alwey stylle. e. Thou shuldist aske no man any questen wt a spyteful/ nor a thretyng voyce thou thyselfe shalt gyue an answere mekely/ & softly. f. Thou shuldist not exalte any man with preyse ouermoche: also thou shalt subdue no man wt dispreyse ther shuld be mesure had to bothe preysis/ and dispraysis. g. Preyse/ or dispreyse for ꝑ no man can sey to the: thou haste ouer moche of iugement/ or goodnes and ouermoche is neuer good. h. Moreouer thou shalt not reioyce thy tunge therfore: ꝑ thou mayst throwe with it a wounde of sclaūder agenst men: ꝑ be absent because euery man marketh/ and hatith hym: ꝑ bacbiteth them: ꝑ be a weye whyle he supposith to be done of that bacbiter none other wyse to hymselfe: when he is out of his presens. i. Thou shuldiste not suffer any bodye to flatir ꝑ nor thou shalt not be flatryng to any other body thyselfe for eyther errour/ whether euer it be of them bothe: is greuouse. k. Thou shuldist be ware thyselfe: when thou arte flatird wt glauerynge wordis: because thou mayste bye frendis by ꝑ mene: makynge coste apon them but no man/ ꝑ is flatird of the: woll bye the ꝑ rather for thy feyre wordis with any other coste/ but with feyre wordis agen. l. If any wykyd body preyse ꝑ: thou shuldist coūt his preysyng no more to thyn honeste: than if the cause of thy preyse were wyckyd. m. Ascribe/ and count ꝑ shrewde seyinges of euyll men to a very trewe preyse for ꝑ grettist preyse of all is to displese euyl men. n. Hit is an harde thyng for any body to bere hymselfe for ꝑ his eris shuld be closid agenste pleserfull flatterynge wordis and ꝑ specially aboue all other is reportid to be an exceedyng gay dede for a man to kepe his eris closyd agenst flatryng. o. I trow: those thre doughters of Acheloy/ & Caliope callyd syrenes/ whom Ulixes despysyd: were none other/ than flateryng tungis for tho

le monstirs be bade Inough to be takyn for thē: ꝑ Ulixes fledde. p. Thou shalte drede alwey flatrynges more/ than shrewde wordis for these shrewde wordis shew the vicis of the spekars: wherby we may ꝑ better beware of them but those other flatrynges keuer rather the vicis of the spekars: wherby we may the soner be disceuyd. q. He/ ꝑ is syke: labourith besyly to cure/ and hele ꝑ desese: the which desese he felith: greuyng hym but he takith noo hede of ꝑ desese: that he felith not peynfull to hym where= apon he dyith at ꝑ laste. r. That woūde is lightly cura= ble: that aperith outwarde but ꝑ desese/ that lyith hid in= wardly: deceuith ꝑ phisicion: though he be as connynge: as was Chiron callyd phylirides after his mother Phy= lira. s. Thou shuldist not study to apere amonge the pe ple other: than thou arte in dede but lykewyse also thou shuldist not feyne thyselfe to haue hit: ꝑ thou haste not. t. Also thou shuldist not reherse: whatsomeuer thou haste of noblenes: as thy manly dedis/ and thy kynred/ & thyn olde aūceturs. v. It is not cumly: ꝑ any man shulde be a sheware of his owne preysys nor it is not conuenyent: ꝑ he shuld subdue with his voyce of dispreyse ꝑ lynagis of an othir man. r. Thou shuldist not be a genste with thy wordis ꝑ preyse of an other man like a poysynful enuyus felowe thou shuldist not be a synger thyselfe/ or a declarer of thyn owne dede. y. Like as no wyse man shewith his fautis to ꝑ peple: euyn so likewyse he prechith not his ver tuse: shewyng oppynly his good dedis. z. For (as it is co= mynly seyd) a mannys preyse is foule i his owne mouth. speciallye: when it is falle: mete for a lighte braynyd sou= diar.

But do it rather i dede: wherby thou mayste be rehersyd of all thyn aftirage: broughte for an example. b. But whose shewith out all about his vnthriftty vicis to many

men lyke a babelynge fole: he specially is beleuyd rightoul lye of all men / ꝑ euer here of hym: to be rauyng mad. l.
And / whether he reherse false sclaunders of hymselfe / orels trewe trymys / as they were done of hym in dede: he is the more worthy of ponysshemēt / ye & the more worthy for the galowse to be hangyd for his bostemakynge. m. yet / though a man shuld reporte none euyll of hymselfe: & it happen: ꝑ thou shuldist be vnknowen / and the thynges themselfe be thyn owne: then thou mayste reherse theym: sumwhat refraynynge honestly: ꝑ no man shuld perceue: that thou diddiste hit for any bostynge of thy selfe. n. If thou haue any faculty: or connynge / cause: that men may knowe hit: yet take hede: that it be not made greuous to them eyther by thy bostynge it / orels by thy besynes ther with agenst them. o. For no man puttith a lampe / or a matche vnder his hart: when it is lightid hote brennyng: orels puttith his eyes nere hit: thā is cōuenyent for them to be no more he woll thy cūnynge: if thou set hit to sore a fyre agenst hym. p. For bayneglory shuld not be sought fore of the w̄ thy study: thou shuldist not study therfore: if bayne glory plese any body: he is not wyse. q. But now shortly to cōclude: all ꝑ we reioyce apon in this worlde: is but bayne glory: for whatsomeuer we haue don our selfe: we haue not be ꝑ leders therof our selfe: but god hymselfe hath be the chefe ledar of our dede. r. Therfore / because all cummyth of hym: all maner glory / worship / & preyse is due to the celestiall fathir aboue in heuyn: thisl wyse the spouse of Cryste (holy church) techith vs to sey. s. Therfore / because hit cummyth not of vs: if any worshyppe / or preyse be geuyn to vs: that haue not deseruyd: hit may be callyd bayne / or boyde frome vs / and lighte nothynge worth to vs warde. t. But nowe to an other mater: if thou chyde any bodye: take hede: that thou apere not

greatlye meuyd with rashe anger/but that thou doest it: lefe/and prouokyd therto by loue. m. Ireprouer/that is ouer bittir/sharpe/or testy:profetith nothynge many tymes/a mety man profetith more/for he techith more: than the angry man dothe. n. Thou shalt geue pardon esely/or lightly without any grete entretynge to an erroure:that is done for lacke of witte/or cõynge/and/when thou forgeuest:thou shalt sey:that pardon shall not be geuyn an other tyme:if that erroure/or any suche other be takyn/or done any more. o. But and if wordis haue no powar te to mende hym that is amysse:and if he specially/that is repentyd:be somwhat dere to the:whome thou art lothe to lese:bese fetirs for hym bynde his fete faste to gether with a peyre of gyues. p. Thou shuldist not rage out ouer longe in chidynge:beware beyng ouer sharpe/or bitter among them:that be louse for ꝑ/nothynge specially of thy kynred. q. When thou chydiste:if thou be wyse:folowe contynuge surgyens:doynge as they doo/the which cut away the corrupte rotten partis of the lymmys: that they maye make the bodyes hole only/and for none other cause. r. Solyke wyse correcte thou wysely them:that be nygh to the:whom thou canst fore:that thou mayste profet them. thou shuldist not gete ꝑ hatred:whyle thou pretendist shrewd sharpe dedis of ponysshement to the trespasers. s. Ther fore(to auoyde hatred)this ponysshement shuld be done but selden:and when it is a doynge: wronge shulde sele it shulde not be done wrongefully/nor more:than ꝑ faute requyrith:and the ponysshement shulde be done then: when there is no better wey lefte. t. Contrary nowe on the tother partye if any body ponysshe the:thou shuldiste suffer hym:that refourmyth ꝑ thou shuldist not take greuously the seynges of hym:that exortith to that entente:

that he myght profet the. v. For if he haue chid the acor dynge to thy desecuyng: he hath profetid the if no: that he hath not profetid the: the faute is not in hym for he wolde abyn profetable to the: if thou wolds ist a done after hym.
f. If any besy testy enmy chafe ꝑ any tyme w̄ his touthe: snatchynge at the lyke a snarrynge curre: vse thy sadnes also agenste hym let hym haue his wordis: when he will not be answerde by reson. p. O how moche hath a wyly enmy hurtid ꝑ without any weppyn: if he cause that thou shuldist fall fro thyn olde sadnes: that thou were wont to vse! z. Ther shuld nothynge that is inconuenyent for a holy vertuose mouthe: fall fro the: thoughe he ꝑ dogge bar ke shrewde inconuenyent wordis agenste the.

the One and thyrtyth alphabete.xxxi. a.

Moreouer thou shuldiste take hede diligently: that thy tale wander not ouer farre fro thy purpose whē thou art gone out of thy matir: hye the: turne agen whome by day light. b. Before take hede wysely: lest any body shuld sey to ꝑ Draw nyghe home now by day light ꝑ is to sey turne agen now at ꝑ laste to thy matter and purpose. c. Owe shorely to cōclude when thou pceuyst thy feldwys to be greuyd w̄ thy talkynge: leue of thy tale: that thou go no farther to be more greuus to them. d. Thou shuldist not desyre to inhabit howsys: ꝑ be hightid w̄ peyntynge and marbull but thou shuldist ꝓuyde ꝑ an holsum house to dwelyn. e. Whether thou byde this house: that thou wolte dwelyn: or els take it boughte for a certen pryse: take hede: what maner house thyn occupacion and ꝓfet it selfe requyrith. f. For lethyn housynge is made only for mennys ꝓfetis: let thy house agree meit only to thyn owne ꝓfetis and occupacōs. g. Also pleser and wot gay decked houses shuld not be soughte for of ꝑ specially ꝑ art a man lyuyng but apon thyn occupacō but thou shuldist rathir

lethe for pleser about thyn inner chāber. h. If thou wolt make it clene: ꝑ is thy litle bedchaumber/ or study: it woll geue ꝑ maruels swete sauers wt a litle roste take ꝑ as many pleſers therof: as thou desyrste. i. And also reson requyrith ꝑ thy chaūber shuld be pleserfully drest rather/ than any other house for thou muste bydestyll in thy bed chaūber on ꝑ nyght seſons: & there thou mayste byde on ꝑ day seſon also: when thy list: sethen thou canste not vse thy selfe still so in any other house all the seſon of thy lyfe. k. Moreouer thou shuldist take hede to syrynkill this chaū ber of thyn with ꝑ swete sauer: ꝑ cūmy thout of ꝑ coūtrey callyd Assyria: thou shuldiste prouyde: ꝑ it myght be hyghtid with all maner helpe to make it clenly/ and soute. l. Therfore/ because gay decksyd houſys shuld not be lokyd fore: ꝑ householder shuld not be knowē by his gay house to be a gay man therfore but ꝑ house shuld be reuerenst: takynge his name of his master: the houſholde shulde be more take hede of/ than ꝑ house and ꝑ master is a boue ꝑ householde. m. At ꝑ leest wyse it is not cōuenyent: ꝑ all thy nobilnes shuld be soughtfore of thyn house as though all stode therin but yet the house hitselfe may helpe ꝑ ryal nes of ꝑ maistir therof. n. Let not ꝑ sentens ꝑ is wonte to be seyd: be able to be seyd agenste the O noble house of olde tyme: howe vnmeit is this master for the! o. I haue harde my selfe many tymes men seyinge: our seſon: Alas noble house of olde seſon: howe vnmeit nowe is thy ma- ster for the! p. Also thou shuldiste not bylde paleis a- pon outlande in ꝑ coūtrey gretter: than ꝑ maner of seyin ge/ ꝑ is declarid nowe all redy: may vse to sey about the house reherſyd afore: the whiche maner is this: let not thy nobilnes be coūtid in those paleis: but yet they may helpe to hight ꝑ. q. Thou shuldist gouerne ꝑ meuyng of thyn hādis for: & so shuldist thou gouerne thy mouth/ & thyn yis

lykewyse: that thou mayste geue a token by theym: how we thou behaueste thyselfe within thy body. r. But specially beleue: that those folisshe gestis/or meuynges of other men/that thou takyste of them: be able to plese lesse in the/ than in them. s. But/and thou dout ought: take the cou sell of some trusty frendis: desyrynge them: ꝑ they wolde shewe the: if thou faute ought: whatsomeuer it be. t. So/as thou shuldiste: cõmynge peynters do: and so poetis doo lykewyse they aske other men: what they/ worke semyth to them: trustyng not all to they/ owne iugement for we se farther in other mennys matirs commynye: than we can in our owne. v. But also thou shuldiste not folowe besyly fowle occupacions couetisly: ꝑ thou myghtiste be made a lorde of many goodis/and grete rychesis. x. But yet a nother poynte more to be notyd thou shuldiste flee lykewyse them: that be coũtid fowle wynnynges for they gete caulys of hatred/and enuy. y. Wherfore he/ ꝑ wolde lyue after an honeste maner: shulde not be a kepar of an hauen/or a toll bouthe: nor an encreser of vsurye: as he/that eyther kepith a comyn banke therof: or els lyuyth by the encrese of his owne stocke also he shuld not be a bocher/nor a tauerner for all that maner of lyuynge is foule. z. And to make shorte tale: all they be foule: of whome ꝑ witte/or connynge of they/ crafte shall not be boughte: as is wont to be in all liberall sciencis: but only they/ warke manshepe/and laboure is bought: as is wont to be in all handy craftis therfore flee all ꝑ maner of lyuynge. Euery man can not be a clerke. It is not mete: that euery man shulde be worshipfull we muste haue water pytchers as well/as wyne potts.

a. If it hath nothynge of the witte/but all of the body: what-

some̅uer the comyn tauerne hath setoute to sale and also that delicate kechyn/that is setout redy with all manner delicatis for gluttony: hath nothynge for the witte but all for the body. b. Gamenynge (as the dice/& cardis) and a reuelar (as a daunser/or a tumblar) kepe nothynge vtterly of honeste a slender marchãde also (as a chapman/or a pedlar) kepith nothyng of honeste therfore he is foule also. c. Whosomeuer bythe marchandyse and sillith hit a pen fourth by/& by: he is wont alwey to be full of othis/& full of boyde wordis. d. Ther is nothynge in dede fouler/than a babblar full of boyde wordis/ and a periurar full of othis/specially false for he/that is full of boyde wordis/and periury: beggyth men: & settyth god at nought/ and the seyntis: that he swerith by. e. But now on the tother parte if a marchãde be grete of plẽtethful chaffer: he is turnyd to no grete dishonesty: as I suppose. f. He also shall be able to be preysyd: that is a riche merchande/ or any other noble man: if he rouet to be a londe tiliar full/ and hole: turnynge hymselfe at the laste to the feildis. g. There is nothyng better than the tillynge of the grou̅d nor more worthy to be louyd/than hit the grounde the= which takynge but fewe thynges: geuyth the master ther of many thynges. h. Vse an honeste feilde: be not a shamyd therof. kethyn the cõquerars of the worlde sumtyme in olde seson were not a shamyd to till with theyr owne hãdis this erth: that men make so dangers of now a dayes. i. The court of the lawe constraynyd the noble alder= men to cum fro ꝑ feildis into ꝑ good towne to bere office and so he/that was made a meyre the toon day: was but a cowherde ꝑ day afore. k. Amonge all craftis men ꝑ phi= sycion/or surgyn is preysid & a prynspall bilder (as a ma= ster mason/or a carpynter) is preysyd likewyse: ꝑ techith

warke men to bylde that be but hewars/ and clensars of stone/ and tymber: callyd in laten fabri: as ꝑ blome smyth is callyd faber: that clensyth Iron: and dryuyth hit out in to bariis redy for crafti men to make crafty thynges of hit. l. Thou shuldiste not be a requyrer/ or a crauer of gentilnes: that thou hast done aboue thy dutye yet/ if any gentill rewarde be yeldid the volumtarily without any desyre of the: thou thyselfe shalt be noo sluggy the receuer therof. m. Thou shuldist not beleue a non quycly: what somener thynges be seyde of the peple/ orels comply with out any certen autore for hit/ that an euyll tonge spekith: hath before de false many tymes. n. Euyll men seke many tymys to throwe downe good men into the pryis hedlynge: whyle they reherse false thynges vnder the name/ and colore of good playne forthrightnes. o. Therfore withstande thyselfe/ as moche as thou canste: ꝑ false craftis of these myscheffull caytiffes despise all: that they seye & defye all: that they do. p. Thou shuldist study to shew thyselfe pleterfull/ & gentyll to euery bodye in thy matirs of welth/ and prosperite: for the more thou arte of powar therto: the more thou oughtist to do hit. q. But/ and thy goodis be but slender of small substans: thou shuldist seke helpis of counforte: and thou shuldiste not apere to be wretchyd to all men: that euery man shulde knowe hit. r. When thou sorowist thyn owne harmys: thou shuldist not tell a longe tale: reherlynge the profetis of othir men: lest thou shuldist seme to be enuydus at theyr profetis. s. Loue alwey to lerne: and let ther be no very grete care to the: of whome thou shuldiste lerne: let it be Inoughe for the to haue thy lernynge: take hede therof/ and not of the techar. t. Thou shuldiste teche other men hit: that thou canste: when they be wyllynge to knowe hit: thou shuldist

be myndefull/remebryng:that thou didist lerne of other men thyselfe afore. v. And now ꝑ we be at this poynt: lady Talia/that arte the gouernar of my pen:determe an ende to our warke:that we haue in hande thou shalte declare wt thy swete melody other thyngis/that be lefte:in a more conuenyent seson. x. Forgefe vs reder of this warke:if I haue raylid out myselfe ouer farre from e the pithe of our matir:for my goddes/that ledith my pen:couetith none other thyng/saue to profet. The ende of ꝑ englysse.

¶ The correction of the englysshe.

¶ The firste alphabete.a. That litle boke/that Wancyne menyth:conteynyth ¶ 2.m. I may for my parte deny by reson:that I shuld shew them. ¶ 3.n.shuld differ from other rude bestis by hit:dyuydyng hym fro them. ¶ 4.t. and anenste othir: ¶ 5.o.doble namynge ¶ 7.p. Hit ꝑ is done i dede:lyith not ¶ 9.p. without preyse/but gretly preyse worthy. ¶ 16.r. what shulde he drede:

¶ Here folowyth the syde of the lefe:that shulde a be in the.17.alpabete. ¶ e. No prisonement/no longe sore hũger/tormetynges/and firste:none oyle hote boylyng/ noo pitche brennynge/nor noo flowynge watirs of the salte see droue them into a foule shamefull flight fro ther heuenly purpose f. Cyrtis/nor partis of any kyngdom/ and wedlockys of kynges ꝓmessid cõstraynyd not them to turne into a foule shamefull flighte fro theyr heuenlye purpose. g. And the fathers/and mothers had poware/ and strengthe of harte not onlye to behalde gladlye theyr chyldren in ꝑ flamys of the fyre/and in other cruell tormẽtynges:but also rather ꝑ mother exortid hir tẽder yonge chyldren:and one brother exortyd an other/and the dere welbelouyd wyfe hir husbande to suffer theyr martyrdome with a stronge hart gladly bothe for Christis sake:

that ſuffered for them: and alſo for ꝑ rewarde of euerlaſtyng ioy: that they ſhall haue for they⁹ folowynge hym. h. Who can ſey: ꝑ ſeyntis were ouercome: when they dyed: they were rather ouercommers by they⁹ dethe as of all worldly aduerſytes. i. There is nothyng more manly/ or gretter than to ouercum the worlde: that is to ſey than to ouercome all erthly thynges/ and ſo to gete aboue the whiles of ꝑ ſkye into heuen. k. Ther is nothyng ſo ioy full/ and ſo welthfull/ nor nothynge ſo ſwete for man: as to dye after thy weye Cryſte for thy ſake. l. And this may we do Cryſte dye after thy wey for thy ſake not only by the ſwyrde/ but alſo by our body diſpiſyd of vs: whyle we be alyue in this worlde ourſelfe. m. He can dye but onys: that dyeth with ꝑ ſwyrde but he dyeth manytymes: that tampyth his lymmys: punyſſhynge his bodye hym ſelfe for euery ponyſſhemẽt is as a deth in maner. n. Alſo it is not geuyn to all men ¶ 20. g. ſeyntis: if ſhe haue at any ſeſon be ¶ 24. d. or courſys of lyuynge. ¶ 25. i. inconue= nyens/ as lightnes of wytte. ¶ 26. m. mennys owne auan= tage ¶ 27. b. ſpot of ſyn ¶ 27. q. Alſo thou ſhuldiſte not ¶ 28. ſ. becauſe that thoſe thynges/ ¶ 29. g. goodnes: for ¶ 30. d. reporte but litle of hym ſelfe:

The correction of the terte.

In the firſte alphabete in the letter. i. comparet ære: Nil quicq̃ ¶ i. alph. afore m. ſeueritatẽ ¶ 2. b. ſeuerina ¶ 2. l. repente ¶ 2. r. decrant ¶ 2. y. terris ¶ 3. a. fiant ¶ 3. p. cer ta mente ¶ 3. r. multos ¶ 5. k. metitur ¶ ther ſyxe ſythe al= phabete begynnyth a. Quippe: therfore the 5. afore Quip pe/ and the a. before Quicquid muſt be donout. ¶ 6. c. ſũt cõ munia: non ¶ 6. d. minimum ¶ 6. h. officiũq; ¶ 8. h. ſum mum ¶ ferret ¶ 8. k. Inuiti ¶ In the queyar of b. the firſt lefe muſte haue after the alph. nonum. 9. in. The ſeconde de cimum. 10. x. The thirde vndecimũ. 11. xi. The fourth duo=

decimum.12.xii. The fyfthe tertiūdecimū. The fyckeſthe quartūdecimū.14.xiiii. The ſeuynth quītūdecimū.15.xv. The eyghthe ſextumdecimum.16.xvi. Nowe ayen to the correccion of the texte. ℂ 8.r.aptat In ℂ 9.c.differ' ℂ 9. n.præferri ℂ 9.q.feras ℂ 9.t.aliquod ℂ 10.o.nequeunt ℂ 10.y.munera ℂ 11.l.ſenectus ℂ 12.h.religio eſt: ℂ 12.k. manifeſta ℂ 12.m.vt/conſtantia ℂ ſancta:velis ℂ 12.p. loquatur ℂ 12.t.Dum ne vni prodeſt: ℂ 12.z.flammam ℂ 13.c.lætus ℂ 14.b.eſt:nulla eſt ℂ 14.r.referet ℂ 14.ſ. dat:ſi ℂ 14.t.fella ℂ 15.r.nos decet ℂ 17.c.carcer ℂ 17. m.occidat ille' ℂ 17.o.morte ℂ 17.t.quæ faſtus ℂ 17.v. poſſederit ipſum' ℂ 18.d.primum:nec ℂ tua eſt: ℂ 18.l. ancipiti ℂ 18.m.flāmis ℂ quod propiuſque ℂ 18.r.Quā partem:e ſúmo pars quæ eſt tibi ℂ 18.t.Sūt/nō r. Sūt ℂ 18.r.Quodqꝫ ſit ℂ 19.p.moderantis ℂ 20.o.vigila: ℂ 21.a.illa vetat ℂ 21.t.Sētiat ℂ 23.l.Eſt inder ℂ 24.b. In minimis ℂ 24.k.iuuenilibus ℂ 24.v.medicum gere tes: ℂ 24.y.paſtorē ℂ 25.a.ſe ſe eſſe ℂ 25.b.ſciunt ℂ 25. f.reddere ℂ 25.h.recti fit ℂ Hic/niſi ℂ 25.k.colonos ℂ 25. r.ſortitur ab aſtris ℂ 25.r.linquet ℂ 27.3.diſſerat ℂ 29. e.interoges ℂ 29.v.stēmata ℂ 30.a.quo tu ℂ 30.f.ppius/ ℂ 30.l.obiurges ℂ 30.m.reprenſor ℂ 30.t.Qui monet: ℂ 31.i.verſes ℂ 31.t.Interogant ℂ 32.a.ingenii ℂ 32.t. Non/ ℂ 32.t.volentes.

Howe the lernars ſhuld laboure theſe warkys.

THoſe woll labore kyndly theſe tway warkis/ and moſt eſyly to his pfet:he muſt firſt correcte them:as we haue ſhewyd here afore.

Forturnyge englyſſhe into laten.

And then if he woll labore to turne englyſſhe into laten: he muſte take firſte of the eſyſte engliſſhys: ſpecially if he

be ponge in lernynge hymselfe. And when he vnderstondith his englysshe clerelye: what hit menyth: then let hym loke: what parte of speche is euery worde therof/ specially the declynable wordis in whom be syde theyr declynyng seuen thynges muste be consytheryd thre in casuale wordis: nomber/ case/ and gender and foure in verbis: mode/ tens/ nomber/ and persone. If he can not by his owne studye vnderstonde clerely euery parte/ and specially the declynable partis with the concordis longynge to them: he muste go to other: that be bettir lernyd/ than he: bothe for them/ and also for those laten wordis: ꝑ he can not vntyll our tway alphabete tabils come abrode: the tone begynnynge with the englysshe wordis: hauynge ther laten folowynge the tother with the laten wordis: hauyng theyr englysshe folowyng. And whē he hath turnyd his englisshe into laten: let hym ouerse his laten diligentlye: that euery worde be acordynge to his englysshe/ and neyther more/ nor lesse: and that his laten haue a parfet sentence: when hit is englisshid worde by worde. And then let hym turne to the laten of the terte and where he can not fynde by his owne reson: why the laten of the terte is other wyse/ than his laten: let hym marke diligētly/ & kepe still i his mynde those poyntis: that he shewde hym of other and soo shall he shortlye lerne by the laten of ꝑ terte not only to correcte his owne late made out a length euery worde: as it shuld be spokyn: but also to make it short: as it shuld be writen. For lyke as the tunge/ and the penne be tway maner thynges: euynso they shuld kepe: eyther of them his properte. The tunge shuld spekeout a length wt a tretable clere voyce euery worde: leuyng nothyng to be vnderstode: ꝑ ꝑ herer may perceue clerely the sentēce at ꝑ firste for many one is a shamyd to desyre to haue a thynge shewde hym twyse. But ꝑ penne shulde write nothynge: that may esyly be

vndestode for the reder may telle se hit as ofte: as hym liste beside ꝑ helpe of the ortography (to se: how the wordis be writen) and of the poyntynge (to se: howe the clausys be devydid eche from other with they: owne poyntis: longynge properly to them) if they be truly kepte: as they be in these tway warkis of ouris specially ꝑ ortography of the laten warke/and ꝑ poyntynge of bothe ꝑ warkis. But yet/thoughe the redar haue all these helpis of vnderstondynge: the penne man muste set the wordis of his writynge after suche order: as the sentens therof may apere moost esyly/& oppynly to the vnderstondynge of the redar: as nyghe as the metir woll sufferr. by the whiche metir the redar therof shall haue an other helpe of vnderstondyng: to se the differens of the wordis by the length of they: sylabs. And so/because this laten warke is in metir/and ꝑ in the moost vsyd metir: the lerner therof shall haue good ymytacion to exercyse hym selfe i turnyng his laten/whe he hath made hit shorte: into versis/and ꝑ into pure/clene laten versys/full of quycke fructfull sentens. without ꝑ knowlege at the leest of this comyn metir no man shulde take apon hym: as a grammarian.

¶ For turnynge laten into englysshe.

Whose woll lerne to turne laten into englysshe: lette hym firste take of the esyst latens and [illegible] vnderstondith clerely: what the laten menyth: let hym [illegible] englysshe of euery laten worde that wey: as the sentens maye apere moste clerely to his ere and where the englysshe of the laten wordis of the terte woll not make the sentens fey're: let hym take the englysshe of those laten wordis: by whom ꝑ laten wordis of the terte shuld be expoũdid and if ꝑ woll not be ynoughe to make the sentens perfet: let hym adde more englysshe: and ꝑ not onlye wordis/but also/where nede requyrith: hole clausys: such as woll agre best to the

sentens. And then when he hath done the best: that he can by his owne witte: let hym turne to our englisshe: & where he can not fynde out by his owne serche how our englysshe agreeth to ꝑ latyn: let hym marke & kepe surely in his mynde those poyntis: that be shewde hym of other ozels/ if he haue noo body to shewe hym them: let hym kepe his doutis in his mynde and so fourthe let hym go an hande with no latyns for he shall fynde in conclusyon by diligent ꝑtakynge hede: howe he shall be satisfyde of euery dout by his owne study: and that not only of turnynge latyn into englysshe and englisshe into latyn/ but also of all other poyntis of grammar: that nede requyryth.

¶ This englisshe cryppe shall serue vpon these with also the ozder: howe the latyn shulde be construde with the englisshe to the latyn wozdis eyther they owne ozels the englisshe of those latyn wozdis: ꝑ they shulde be corrupted by. Wherfore I haue with thozlyght declyred the sentens of ꝑ latyn ꝑ which is ꝑfitable not only for ꝑ latyn lerners: but also for them that can but englisshe: ꝑticularly for children ꝑ shuld lerne to rede englisshe for therin they shall haue not only good playne perfect englisshe but also good ꝑfitable sentens of euery thynge lightly ꝑ longeth to ꝑ hole course of mannys lyfe: wherby they may lerne howe they shuld behaue themselfe vnto ther maysters and gouernours/ to ꝑ world & worthy for themselfe. Therfore/ because this warke is made apon soo many maner dyuers thynges: the reders may not looke: ꝑ one thynge shuld depende apon a nother.

¶ Translator huius opusculi lectori exastichon.

Quod possum: frater cupio: sint omnia recta
Quemquam difficile est optima quoque sequi
Hic etiam placet hoc: alii melius placet illud
Hinc nihil esse potest omnibus vsque bonū.
Ergo precor: faueas nobis/ partiq; ꝓpion
Lector/ at ipse tibi consrige: si placeat.